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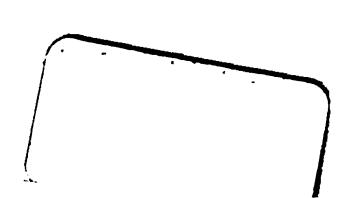
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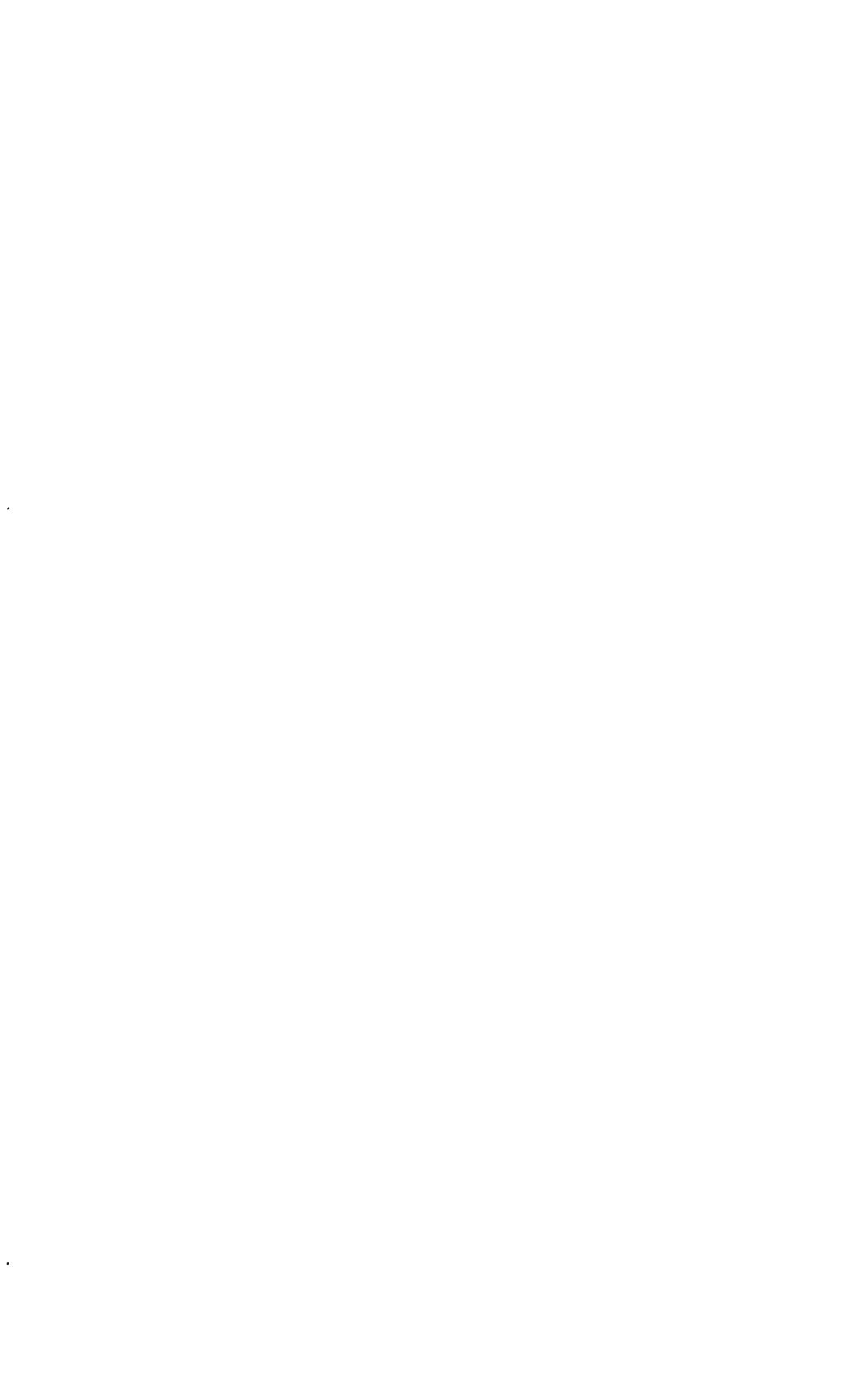


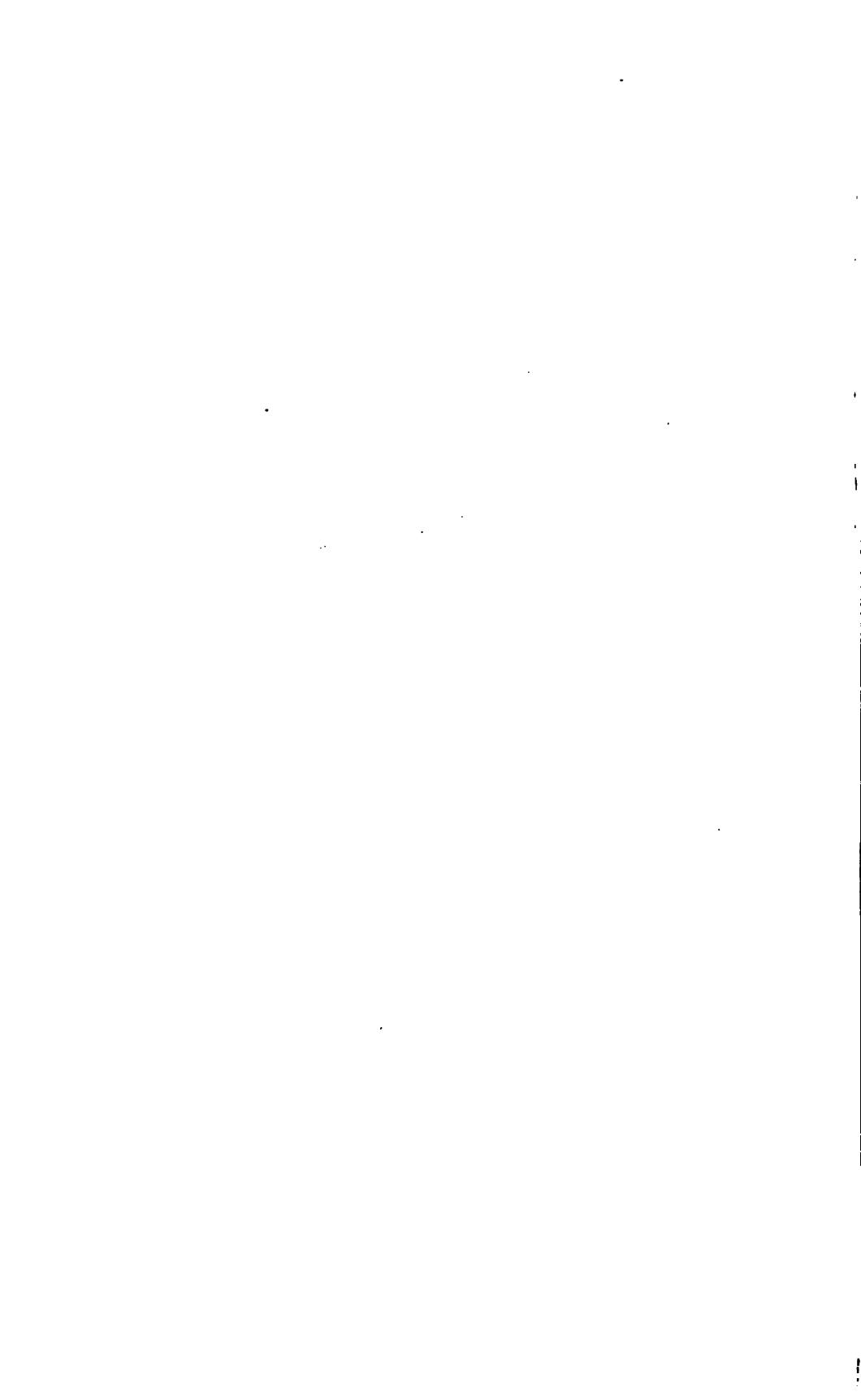
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ECLECTIC MEDICAL REVIEW.

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VOLS. I.-II.

From June, 1866, to June, 1867.

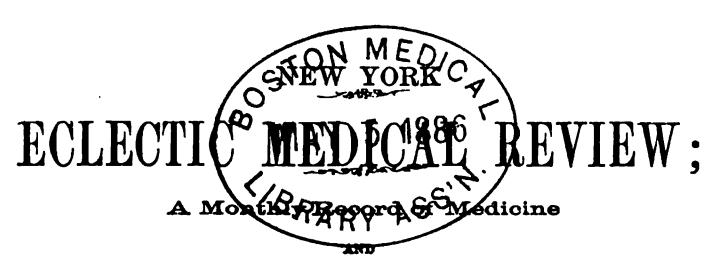
NEW YORK:

JOHN F. TROW & CO., PRINTERS, 50 GREENE STREET,

BETWEEN GRAND AND BROOME STS.

1866-7.

CATALOGUED,



THE COLLATERAL SCIENCES.

Vol. I.

JUNE, 1866.

No. 1.

ORIGINAL COMMUNICATIONS.

Cholera Asiatica: The Cholera Atmosphere; Pathology, Symptoms, and Treatment of the Disease.

BY EDWIN FREEMAN, M. D.,

Professor of Anatomy in the Eclectic Medical College of the City of New York.

It is my object in this paper not to review the entire his. tory of this terrible scourge, neither will I give all the theories of its action on the system, nor every remedy that has been proposed for its cure. I will try to explain, however, what in my opinion the "cholera atmosphere" is, how it is produced, how it affects the human system, and what are the best known remedies for the cure of the disease, at the present time. Cholera is a zymotic disease—epidemic in its influence, and not contagious. It is proved to be transportable, by currents of the atmosphere, for short distances and by persons and things, as baggage and goods of various kinds, closely shut up, inclosing some of the poisoned atmosphere. Its track is always along the lines of travel, and general tendency is from East to West, having had its origin on the banks of the sluggish rivers of Eastern India, where its average march of progress was about twenty-two miles a week, and in Europe from eighty to one hundred miles a week; no faster than a man can travel. It may be introduced into a locality and die out, not spreading as an epidemic, because the local conditions are not present for its support. When those conditions exist in force, it shows its

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power, so as to be the dread of all, attacking weak and strong, young and old, without regard to sex or condition.

Its causes may therefore be said to be specific and local.

The specific cause is the Cholera poison as it originated on the banks of the Hoaghly, or appeared on the Delta of the Ganges, or, as in the last epidemic that swept over Europe, and now threatens us, in the caravan of pilgrims from Mecca. It consists of the emanations from the decomposition of concentrated filth, both animal and vegetable, under a high atmospheric temperature. Those emanations probably consist of particles of organic matter of a highly putrescent character, thrown off into the atmosphere, with the gases of decomposition, and having the property, when introduced into the organism, of acting as a ferment, and inducing a strong tendency to decomposition. It is well known to the physiologist, that a small quantity of a powerful agent—the putrid matter introduced on the point of a needle, in the inspection of a dead body, or a single drop of concentrated prussic acid placed in the mouth of an animal—is sufficient to destroy life. During the height of Cholera, when the air is thoroughly poisoned, birds and beasts are warned of its influence in the atmosphere, and retire from their usual haunts into the inmost recesses of the forest. In a former outbreak of Cholera on the coast, "carrion crows ceased to make their appearance, although there were plenty of dead cattle found in the fields." Cabbages, radishes, and other vegetables, after sprouting up a few inches from the soil, would suddenly be seized with a blight, and in a few days they would wilt and die. The poison is reproduced by every person who takes the disease, and has choleraic vomiting and purging: those ejections and dejections throw it off into the atmosphere, which thus accumulates the poison as the disease spreads, until the height of the epidemic is reached. When thrown off into an atmosphere tilled with the emanations from filth, as in the crowded and dirty portions of a city, their putrescent tendency is highly intensified,—by this condition of the air, and the absence of ozone which has been taken up by those emanations, it being a

preservative principle necessary to life, which unites with putrescent material in the air to destroy it. Currents of air are constantly changing, especially in cities,—a rare and a dense atmosphere interchanging, and thus the poison rapidly spreads. It may be wafted from a place where it has become intense, by those currents and interchanges, and appear anywhere in their course where the local conditions are developed. A person may receive the poison into his blood, and after travelling far beyond the limits of the epidemic or the reach of atmospheric currents, may develop the disease in himself, as has often been demonstrated in the case of persons running from the Cholera; and the local conditions being present, his ejections and dejections may so poison the air, that it may give rise to the epidemic in that locality, and thus it is that it spreads and becomes general.

What, then, are the local conditions? They are—First. "Irregular climatic movements—a high and low barometer, and mostly the latter, and a high and low drying power, and mostly the former."

Second. "Filth and impurities of all kinds, in the largest sense, constituting the great physical enemy of the well-being of man, as street and kitchen offal, the refuse of stores, the drainage of sugar and molasses hogsheads, of stables and vaccaries with deficient ventilation, slaughter-houses, soap, tallow and bone manufactories, privies, cemeteries, swamps, and crowded dwellings, where many diseases originate, and others cannot be cured without removal." It exists, to a proportionate extent, wherever there is a defect in domestic or personal cleanliness; in fine, whatever impairs the purity of the air we breathe, the food we eat, or the water we drink. They are all resolvable into the first, for it is through it mainly they obtain access to our aliment and drink, and through the lungs reach the source of all vitalization.

It has been as truly as beautifully said, that "though we do not see the air, we feel it, and what is more, we breathe it. We live by breathing it, insomuch that it has been well said, that as plants are the children of the earth, so men are the plants of the air; our lungs being as it were roots rami-

fied and expanded in the atmosphere; and this in fact is the chief avenue by which the filth and damp of towns that are not well drained and cleaned, introduce their poison into the human system." The special gases eliminated from privies and other sources of vitiation, just mentioned, are found to be composed mainly of sulphuretted hydrogen and ammonia, one cubic inch of which, in three hundred of air, renders it too noxious to sustain life. Where it exists in a smaller proportion, it must, of necessity, correspondingly affect the health. It is known that where the air is most impure, from those causes, the mortality of Cholera is greatest.

In the Spring of 1833, in Wheeling, Va., the mud and sweepings of the market, and other impurities, had accumulated to the depth of several inches over the whole sur-This dirt was gathered into heaps and carted to the river-bank, just two and a half squares and the breadth of a street from the end of the market-house. The wind at the time blew directly in a line from the pile of dirt to a thicklysettled part of the town. Between midnight and daylight the next morning nearly every member of two families living in the nearest house was seized with Cholera, and three or four of them died. Others in the neighborhood were taken at the same time, whilst all the houses fronting on the square became the abode of the fearful malady. "In Cincinnati, Ohio, during the epidemic, a frame building was inhabited by 33 persons, 8 occupying 4 rooms, 2 in a room. The rest were crowded together from 8 to 5 in a small room. Cholera appeared, and of the 25, 23 died; of those less crowded none were attacked." It is useless to multiply cases. The local conditions intensify the effect of the specific poison, and from the two we have epidemic Cholera.

"Epidemics," says Dr. Edward H. Barton, "derive their power and spread themselves, from certain unusual circumstances and conditions, that are required to give them activity, and the important fact is clearly inferable, this being the sine qua non, they form them. This, in the nature of things, from its wide-pervading, direct, and almost immediate influence over an extensively spread population, must be

atmospherical; and the admission of a wide-spread atmospherical element as a necessary constituent draws after it an important, if not inevitable, influence, in its being a conclusive answer to all averments of its contagious qualities: not that a contagious disease cannot become epidemic (although it is very rare), but the difference is, that a contagious disease never loses that quality, and epidemic disease does, directly it is removed out of the sphere of the epidemic atmosphere, which has always bounds and limits, however extensive it may be, and beyond the localizing conditions already pointed out."

I have tried to explain what the Cholera atmosphere is—that the specific cause must be introduced—other causes being local; and that the atmosphere is still further fatally poisoned by the particles of putrescent matter escaping into it from the vomitings and excrements of Cholera patients. This is proved by the case of the steamship Atlantic during last Fall, that brought the Cholera as far as the quarantine grounds in New York harbor. The disease spread among the steerage passengers, who used a water-closet in common, and who in an emigrant ship are always more or less filthy and crowded, while the cabin passengers, who had one separate in their own quarters, were free from the disease. It has been said that where Cholera prevails there seems to be a want of oxygen in the air, in the usual proportion, or an absence of ozone, which, it is said, is that gas in a highly electrical condition; and Cholera has been attributed to that In my opinion, if such be the case, it might be attributed to the fact that the gas unites with the putrescent particles of organic matter, present in such quantities, for their destruction, as it always does in the process of decomposition, for ozone exists in the air in the proportion of 1 part to 10,000, and is generally absent in filthy localities, as in crowded parts of cities.

Pathology. This poison, then, being introduced into the blood through the atmosphere, acts as a ferment, reproducing itself (possibly from the albumen), destroying its integrity, and impeding all vital actions. Its first impression is, through

it, upon the most delicate and sensitive of organized structures, the nervous system, and most immediately upon the ganglionic, or great sympathetic nervous system, which controls all operations within the body for the sustenance of life. That it affects the spinal system is also evident from the clonic spasms of muscles of particular parts, and of the whole body, resulting probably from irregular supply of nerve-force, and the condition of the blood that so thoroughly permeates every tissue—thoroughly poisoned; deprived of oxygen, its vitalizing element; and losing its power of nourishing those tissues. The effect of the poison on the ganglionic system, whose centre is around the coeliac axis, and which sends ramifications along the great arteries arising from it and from the aorta, to the liver, spleen, stomach, intestines, kidneys, etc., is that of a powerful depressent, almost amounting to a paralysis of its functions; so that nervous force is not generated sufficiently to carry on vital operations. The effect is proportionate to the intensity of the poison and the susceptibility or vital power of resistance of the individual. The small branches next to the capillaries, of all blood-vessels supplied by the ganglionic nerves, contract with but little of their normal force, and consequently there is induced a passive congestion of the capillaries, the impetus from the heart not being sufficient to force the column onward to the veins, and thence to the centre of circulation; for it is well established that that force must receive fresh impulse from the contraction of those small branches, to complete the circulation through the capillaries to its centre. There is also a similar loss of contracting power in similar branches of the pulmonary artery, from the same cause, their nervous supply being from branches of the sympathetic nerve derived from the neck. Post-mortem examination reveals congestions of all those abdominal organs mentioned, except the lungs, sections of which develop that the radicles of the pulmonary veins and the left side of the heart are empty. It would probably be otherwise, were it not that they are so near the great pumping apparatus, the heart, which works and throbs to supply the exhausted general arterial circula-

tion. The stomach and intestines have also partially relieved themselves; for the atonic walls of their capillaries let out the serum of the blood, which is poured out in great quantities, where there is so little resistance, as upon the free surface of the mucous membrane of those organs, loosening and disengaging the epithelium, and washing it away with the profuse discharge. Undoubtedly, a great deal of the poison escapes in this way, and is thrown off through the mouth and anus, allowing persons to recover, who, otherwise, by the effect of the poison increasing its activity as the system became weak, would have succumbed to its effects. In cases that have recovered, it has been noticed that the first urine voided was merely serum, with sometimes blood corpuscles floating in it. Many cases have occurred of persons dying very speedily of Cholera-without any evacuation, but where all the other symptoms are present. In those cases, the whole effect of the poison was continued, without nature having a chance to rally by the withdrawal of part of the poison by the evacuations. Undoubtedly, those who vomit and purge have the best chance of recovery under proper treatment, the poison seeming to seek to be thrown from the mucous surfaces. The blood becoming thick, the vis-a-tergo, being feeble, is not sufficient to force the column onward with any degree of rapidity to the heart, and it is accumulated in the large veins, and of course withdrawn from the general arterial circulation—hence blueness and a shrivelled appearance of the surface of the body. With this condition, and with that of the mucous membrane of the alimentary canal, the lining membrane of the bronchial tubes and terminal aircells of the lungs sympathize; and the delicate cell-walls become unfit for the interchange of gases through themoxygen being thus excluded from the blood, and carbonic acid retained in it. The latter gas, with the retention, in some degree, of the secretions of the liver and kidneys, and the loss of the watery elements, gives the blood that black, tarry appearance it possesses after death. The want of oxydation of the blood is the cause of the reduced temperature of the body—the surface being cold, and the breath colder than

the surrounding atmosphere. The patient, however, complains of "burning up;" but that is the result of exhaustion of the nervous system, or general result of the poison, rather than that of heat.

If this theory of the pathology of this disease be true, it will readily account for the well-known effect of fear, in predisposing to the disease—depressing the nervous energies, and making them susceptible to be still farther reduced by the powerful action of the Cholera poison.

The Symptoms of Cholera may be divided into three stages, according to the progress of the disease:

First, the premonitory stage, in which there is a slight diarrhœa, lasting one, or perhaps, several days-which the patient is very apt to neglect, but which is not always present. This is invariably accompanied by a condition of weariness and lassitude, which terminates very speedily in prostration of the vital energies. In the second stage, this symptom is always present, without exception, and should always give the patient warning of what is coming. It exists where there is no premonitory diarrhoea, and does not seem to depend upon the exhausting influence of the profuse discharge. In this stage there is sometimes a distressing uneasiness in the stomach and bowels—often extending over . the entire body—not sufficient, however, to be regarded as actual pain. There is often an unnatural taste in the mouth; also a furred tongue-which soon changes, however, as the active stages become developed, when it becomes cold and red—the coating passing off.

The second stage is characterized by nausea and vomiting, with purging of the most violent kind, the discharges having the peculiar appearance of rice-water. After the first evacuation from the bowels, there is generally no feecal matter to be seen. There are also twitchings or crampings of the muscles to a greater or less extent—which, if not relieved, soon become general, and exceedingly violent and painful. There is an uncontrollable desire for cold water, which is thrown off as soon as swallowed. The pulse is feeble and rapid, in proportion to the diminution of the vital force.

The collapsed stage is most generally the sequel of the two preceding stages; but in a few cases it comes on without vomiting or purging—as the result of the powerful effect of the poison upon the nervous system. It is characterized by powerful crampings of the whole body—mostly of the extremities—a shrivelled, cold, and bluish condition of the skin, and great general prostration. The pulse can scarcely be felt. There is great indifference manifested by the patient to what is going on around him, and in this condition he passes off rapidly, if the means used are not successful for his recovery.

Treatment.—It is evident from what has been said, that on the threatened appearance of Cholera, it is the duty of every individual to see that the sanitary condition of his premises and surroundings is the best that is possible, and that all filth of every kind is removed, and the surface washed with a solution of lime, or some more powerful deodorizer, as "sulphate of iron, per-chloride of iron, sulphate or chloride of zinc, or nitrate of lead, in solution of 1 part to 10 of water," any of which will purify the air of noxious gases that may escape into it. Privies and water-closets should be emptied and kept clean, and thoroughly disinfect-· ed, by throwing into them either of the above articles, of which sulphate of iron is perhaps the best and cheapest, and chloride of lime, which destroys particles of organic matter in the air. Street filth should be removed far from the neighborhood of human habitations, and those establishments that poison the air with their disgusting odor should be suppressed. Dwelling-houses should be well ventilated, and not overcrowded, obliging the emanations from the body to be breathed over again, to the detriment of the health of the Indeed, every measure should be adopted that is possible to reduce the local causes necessary for the development of the epidemic, to as low a minimum as possible. Another very important measure is the destruction of the poisonous qualities of the ejections and dejections of the Cholera patients immediately that they are thrown off from the body, which would go very far toward decreasing the

virulence of the epidemic. Wood or peat charcoal or chloride of lime, soda ash or caustic soda in solution, or Condie's or Labaraque's fluid for disinfecting, can either of them be placed in the vessel into which the discharges are to be received, and will answer well the purpose indicated; they are all true disinfectants, and some one of them should be in every house for that purpose. They can be used to disinfect buildings; or either sulphurous, nitric or nitrous acid fumes or bromine, placed in open vessels in the room to be cleansed, may be used with a like effect. Camphor worn in the pockets, and the smoke of tobacco, are said to be prophylactic.

Too much attention cannot be paid to the premonitory diarrhœa. Absolute rest in the recumbent posture is imperatively required, so that no demand will be made on the nervous centre for force that it cannot supply, and this position should be maintained until there is complete relief, even if it should be several days. A stimulant and astringent may be given to check the discharges and prevent prostration. A good combination is, B. Xanthoxylin, Gum Camphor, Geranin and Pulv. Kino aa, ½ grain M. F. pill, to be given every hour until relieved, or not so often, if the case does not seem to demand it. Paregoric, in half or teaspoonful doses may be sufficient for the purpose. The neutralizing cordial of the Eclectic Dispensatory is an excellent remedy in this stage, especially when taken in conjunction with the astringent mentioned above, or with a preparation made by adding one ounce each of pulverized cinnamon, cloves, and gum guiacum to one quart of good French brandy, in doses of from two teaspoonsful to a tablespoonful every twenty minutes, to an adult. At the same time bottles of hot water, hot bricks or stones, should be placed around the patient, warm clothing placed over him in bed, mint or cinnamon tea given him, and a warm, copious perspiration induced, and continued for several hours. This course will give great and complete relief, even if there be nausea and vomiting, with diarrhœa. Slight diarrhœa may be sometimes relieved by rest, and the ordinary domestic remedies in use in every family. Articles of food different from what are ordinarily eaten, as well as those that are apt to excite to diarrhea and cholera-morbus, should be avoided. Yet no one should starve himself to keep off the disease, but make his diet as plain and substantial as possible, and keep up his natural strength as a protection against it. If proper care be exercised, the disease may progress no farther than the preliminary stage—nature be sustained until the poison is eliminated from the system, and the health of the patient reëstablished.

In the second stage, great effort must be made to draw the blood into the general circulation, and increase the heat of the body which is not supplied in the natural manner. We have a powerful agent in the blanket, dipped into hot water, and wrung out as dryly as possible, and wrapped around the patient, who is then to be enveloped with warm dry ones. This produces a much more powerful effect than the hot bottles, bricks, &c., and is invaluable in the collapsed stage as well as this. Friction of the limbs and body should be resorted to whenever possible. Vomiting may be allayed by a strong cataplasm to the epigastrium, and the inter nal use of peppermint, spearmint, and camphor-water, of each an ounce, and tinc. of opium two drachms, in teaspoonful doses every five or ten minutes. The tincture of the berries of the Xanthoxylum fraxineum should be given in teaspoonful doses every ten, fifteen, or twenty minutes; or, in the same doses, what is called Hunn's life drops, B. oil anise, menth-pip, cajeput, caryophylli, a a 3 j., alcohol 3 iv. M. A combination of this preparation and the tincture of Xanthoxylum, in equal parts, is also very excellent. Either of these agents should be administered per rectum, if the patient cannot retain it on his stomach; in either case it produces a powerful and wonderful effect.

They seem to act as a stimulus to the organic nervous system, not only exciting the organs to their proper and natural action, but powerfully sustaining them. Their first and immediate effect, as described by patients, is "like that of an electric shock," and is felt in every part of the body in the production of immediate relief. Those small arteries begin to work more vigorously, and forcing the blood on, re-

lieve the congestion; blood is producing its natural effect upon the tissues, for it reaches them, and contains more oxygen; the body recovers its normal heat; nerve-tissue receives its proper stimulus, the clonic spasms cease, and the patient is placed in a fair condition for recovery, and saved from imminent death. The sudorific tincture has also been proved to be an excellent remedy, as an adjuvant in this and the collapsed stages. Chloroform also stands high as a stimulant and anti-spasmodic, and has been used with marked success in doses of from ten drops to a half or a teaspoonful, often repeated. A favorite prescription in India, as reported by a gentleman from that part of the world, is B. opt. French brandy, Oij, laudanum 3j, horse-peppermint 3j, black pepper 3iij, M., a wineglassful to be given in as much water. If the patient rejects it, it must be repeated, pro re nata.

A cataplasm of garlic and mustard seed, stewed together until the garlic turns brown, was applied to the feet and legs, while the same stimulating application was vigorously applied, with friction, to relieve the cramps and spasms of the body and limbs. The effect was described as being sometimes very surprising. In the third, or collapsed stage, the hot blankets, Hunn's life-drops, tinct. Xanthoxylum, &c., should be used very vigorously, or any other equally efficient agent that may be known, and the same favorable results will be realized, unless in exceptional cases of feeble vitality or last stages of collapse.

The above treatment, except the recipe last mentioned, was used by the eclectic physicians of Cincinnati during the Cholera epidemic in that city in 1849, with the most wonderful success, (as reported in the Eclectic Medical Journal of that city for that year,) curing on an average 95½ per cent. in private practice, and 75½ per cent. in the Cholera Hospital under their charge, where a majority of the cases were of the most malignant kind, and in the last stages of the disease.

The convalescence under this treatment is rapid, the patient not being liable to congestion of the brain and other organs, nor to the typhoid condition so much to be feared in

the after-treatment of Cholera. Any disposition to alvine evacuation or recurrence of the disease may be checked by an occasional dose of the same remedy.

New York, 93 E. 17th Street.

The Position and Wants of Eclectic Medicine.

BY PAUL W. ALLEN, M. D.,

Professor of Theory and Practice of Medicine in the Eclectic Medical College of New York.

For a few years past, every village in our country, and in fact almost every family, has had its thoughts and its sympathies principally interested in our great national struggle. In all our land the question has been whether there should be two nations or one nation. Fortunes and lives have been put into this contest to an extent hitherto unknown in all the history of civil wars. The commercial, financial and educational institutions of the entire people have been in a state of unrest and change; and especially has this been true in reference to medical colleges and medical journals. Many colleges have been discontinued, and three fourths of all the journals ceased to exist. But this great national crisis is past, and every party and every people in these United States have now only to look to the manifest destiny of one people and one Union—one in heart, in hope, in prosperity; a nation to have the grandest developments and the most glorious future that can possibly be conceived of. The young men of America will yet live to see a nation of an hundred millions—the happiest, most intelligent, and most powerful among the nations of the earth.

As medical men, now is the time to ask ourselves: What are the wants of Medical Education for these millions of American citizens? How shall we, as physicians, and as conscientious and intelligent advocates of Eclectic Medicine, discharge our duty? This is certainly a question of interest to every eclectic physician, and to every person in our country who employs and believes in our practice. We

ought to look at our true present position, our means, and what agencies we ought to employ, in order best to secure our honor and success.

The position of eclectics is essentially what it has been since its introduction to the American people and the world. Theoretically and practically, we have rejected, and we do now reject, that wholesale bloodletting which has made up a large share of the treatment of allopathists in all acute Only a few years since, bloodletting was the rule with the thousands of physicians and writers of this country and of the fatherland. How foolish would any of us have been regarded, twenty years ago, if we had publicly predicted that in 1866, bloodletting would not be the general practice in fevers and inflammations! But we have kept our faith, our practice has proved itself the right practice, and allopathists themselves do not resort to bleeding in one tenth of the cases in which they formerly did. The teachers of allopathy, the professors in their colleges, still advocate this fatal barbarism, and their graduates far too frequently But the common sense of the people, and the resort to it. superior success of eclectic physicians, have brought the practice into disgraceful contempt, in the honest minds of the American people. Surely, this is a change and a triumph! A change by which thousands of lives are saved every year, and a triumph to every eclectic who has been struggling for a right to live and to be honored through these twenty years past.

And yet allopathic writers, when they prepare articles for their medical journals, or write works on the practice of medicine, like Dr. Flint, recommend bloodletting, though with "much discrimination;" and England and Scotland have many among her foremost men who, like J. Hughes Bennett, discard almost entirely the lancet. But the professors in the medical colleges of New York and Philadelphia—the two great centres of medical education in this country—all unite in recommending bloodletting; and their satellites, in all the allopathic medical chairs of the land, echo these sentiments from their halls of collegiate instruction. Take a

single instance: Professor Dutcher, of the Cleveland, Ohio, medical college, in a recently published lecture on dysentery, says: "In the more violent forms of the disease, we can only be successful in their management by the prompt, free, and even repeated use of the lancet." With what horror do eclectics read such instructions to those who are about to assume the responsibilities of our profession! Should it not determine us to cease to send our students to allopathic colleges, and to sustain colleges of our own? Away with such false instruction, so fatal to human life. Let us raise up, and richly endow, honored institutions of medical learning of our own, which shall teach sound doctrines, and far safer practice. Let us be true to ourselves, as well as to humanity, and teach the incoming race of medical men to adopt and honor our own medical convictions, and our own triumphantly successful practice. Let us sustain no colleges except eclectic institutions, and let us sustain well our own journals, which have instructed us so much, and which now promise to do far more for us than ever before.

Our position in regard to mercury is the same now as ever-never to be employed. This potent poison, once administered to every adult and child, we have ever protested against, and podophyllin, leptandrin and other alteratives and cholagogues of great efficacy and excellence have, through eclectic instrumentality, been brought into almost general use. Our success has compelled numerous allopathists to adopt these agents, and they have demanded of Tilden, and of Thayer, who prepare so generally their fluid extracts, to include these in their list of manufactures. In fevers, in portal congestions, and in syphilis, our agents now take the place of calomel, blue mass and corrosive sublimate. But with reference to the use of these agents, the allopathic practitioners are much in advance of the colleges and text-books and journals of allopathy. How did conservative professors, and zealous editors, and medical men in official authority, "come down" upon Surgeon-General Hammond, when he expelled calomel and antimony from the medical chest of the army! Is it our duty, as eclectics, to give countenance and favor and

patronage to such medical colleges? to support such journals, while we neglect to establish and sustain our own? to fawn around, and defer to, these editors, and professors, and hospital surgeons? Why do this, while they seek, in lectures and editorials, to decry us all as irregular physicians? They tell their readers, and their classes, that eclectics are men who have taken softening of the brain by inheritance, or who are too unprincipled to be respected anywhere. We plead guilty to no want of natural ability, to no reasonable want of acquirements, to no lack of principle, to no want of practical success. Indeed, it is our success, and our liberal and wholesouled willingness to receive the truth from every source, which have made us so dangerous to allopathists. It is our success as rivals which has made them decry us. If we had not been eminently successful, we should have died out long ago—a want of success would have killed us. But we are successful, and we are increasing in books, journals, colleges, physicians, friends, influence, wealth, power, honor, and usefulness. State societies, county societies, city associations, are being formed everywhere. Now is our golden opportunity. The people are with us, science is with us, success is with us. What is our mission? With colleges and journals, sustained by our entire eclectic profession, to demand a fair field and a fair fight with allopathic journals and colleges and their advocates. We have only to organize, unite, and put our best efforts into the work, and we shall become prosperous, wealthy, influential, and honored.

We are mostly known in Europe by our "concentrated remedies," and our physicians and pharmaceutists are indeed entitled to lasting honor for these useful discoveries, derived from the fields and forests of America. What is our present position in reference to these? Valuable, indispensable as some of them are, we must not depend too much on all of these agents, nor press their claims too ardently, until they are more thoroughly proven; for, by so doing, we shall disappoint our own practitioners and lose the respect of our rivals. Here, indeed, is one of the greatest needs of eclectic journals. What one physician has a sufficient

number of cases, and of just the kind of cases required, to test alnuine, ampelopsine, apocynine, and nearly or quite fifty others of the list of concentrated powders, to say nothing of the alcoholic and common extracts, the fluid extracts, and the concentrated alcoholic tinctures! Almost every physician has a favorable opportunity of testing some one of these remedies in a few cases; and if most of our physicians would do this, and report the cases in the journals, we should soon know the correct value of these several remedies, as well as the efficacy of many others equally valuable, yet to be discovered. Some of the concentrated remedies are prepared from plants which, in powder or infusion, seem to possess but little therapeutic power; and it is probable that some of them will prove to be of so little reliable efficacy that they will be thrown aside; whilst others have been proved, and will become known, as agents of inestimable value. And thus to prove and make known these agents, the physicians of every section of our land should make their careful observations, and report their cases through eclectic journals. The correct knowledge of a single remedy is not unfrequenty of more practical value toward the success of a physician than the cost of a journal for twenty-five years. No man who understands how to best prepare and correctly use the tincture of veratrum viride, in both medical and surgical practice, would be without that knowledge for a thousand dollars! Let us sustain able professors in eclectic colleges, and hospitals adjoining, and they, too, will contribute valuable experience to our journals; a service which allopathists will not do with reference to agents which originate with eclectics. A distinguished allopathic professor of New England, recently referring his class to some of our agents, stated that "these agents may be good, but, gentlemen, they are used by irregulars, and I advise you to have nothing to do with them." What are eclectics to expect of such men? Our own physicians, journals and professors have ever been devoted to the development of new remedies; allopathists have ever opposed them, and us. How shall we

defeat our own interests, and how cheaply sell our honors, if we do not sustain our own journals and colleges!

But we must bring this hastily written article to a close; and perhaps we cannot more appropriately take leave of our readers, than by remarking that almost every position which eclectics have taken in reference to remedies, within the last twenty years, has proved true; whilst allopathy has lost almost all of its old, distinctive positions. Eclectics have always reduced inflammation and overcome fevers, by equalizing the circulation by means of relaxants, sudorifics and stimulants. We have sweat our patients, and used unirritating cathartics, and reduced the pulse by nauseants, and we do the same to-day, only adding some new agents. Our old agents are all good. Allopathy has taught, and sought, to overcome inflammation by bloodletting, antimonials, mercury and opium; but allopathy is to-day losing her faith, in a great degree, in all these remedies. Her old agents are being discarded, and, for the most part, a blind reliance on unassisted nature—on doing nothing—is taking the place of their old reducing agents and processes. Allopathy has hung out her banner, inscribed, "do nothing, and wait;" eclecticism, using all her old agents and many efficacious new ones, puts upon her banner, "do something, do it quickly, safely, surely." Allopathic professors say, "never depart from regular practice;" eclectic professors say, "always depart from regular practice, if you can do anything better by so doing."

Our freedom of thought; our basing everything upon inductive reasoning, instead of blindly following authorities; our active progressive tendencies, and our earnest investigations to establish a reliable and successful materia medica, must give us glorious success. Let us honor ourselves, honor our cause, honor the science of medicine, by leaving allopathy to die by its own conservatism and blindness, whilst we develop, through the agency of our own colleges, hospitals, journals, and our already numerous profession, an eclectic system of medicine—which shall embrace everything good, from every present system, and adopt whatever is truly valuable in the future fields of medical and surgical discovery.

Eclectic Remedies.

BY WM. W. HADLEY, M. D.,

Professor of Materia Medica and Therapeutics in the Eclectic Medical College of N. Y. City.

That Eclectics have introduced a great variety of new remedies in the practice of medicine is a truth that few knowing the history of the science are disposed to controvert: that the attempt has been made to ignore their claims to the priority of their introduction in many instances, now that their use has become so very general, is no less true; consequently I think it a duty we owe to ourselves and to the world, that we sustain as far as possible our claims to originality, and reap what advantages may accrue to mankind from their use. I may premise by stating that, with few or no exceptions, the whole class of resinoid and alkaloid preparations from indigenous vegetable remedies, has been obtained through the unwearied zeal and energy of the Eclectics, and the enterprise and desire they have shown to obtain substitutes for dangerous and uncertain articles that had previously been employed in the treatment of disease.

I may instance Podophyllin, the active medicinal principle of Podophyllum Peltatum, divested of its extraneous and inert materials, employed as a substitute for the various preparations of mercury which have been so generally given as a remedy in most biliary affections, and which has been supposed to be without a rival, and that nothing could ever displace it in those cases. Now mercury is generally known to be unsafe and dangerous in its effects upon the body, its injurious qualities have destroyed thousands of lives, its ravages have been seen and felt widely throughout the land, so much so that many fear to use it in any way. This opinion has been induced by its unfortunate effects upon the human body, and Eclectics felt the necessity of substituting safer remedies in place of so dangerous an agent, and succeeded quite equal to their expectations. Podophyllin is more certain in its effects upon a disordered liver than calomel, without the danger of a distressing ptyalism or necrosis of the bones following its use.

It is used extensively by all Eclectics, many of other branches of the profession extol it highly and resort to it in practice as soon as they learn its merits. This is not the only article that is obtained in a similar manner and employed by Eclectics in the treatment of the various diseases to which mankind are subject, with a success that has attracted the attention of people of all classes, and which is giving them such a deserved pre-eminence wherever they have an opportunity to show the results of their practice. The U.S. Dispensatory speaks thus: "should it be found to be the purgative principle of the plant, it would be entitled to the name of podophyllin," when the article is known to possess the purgative principle, and has been used for years on account of its purgative and cholagogue properties. This fact of its previous use has been overlooked by those who seem interested in withholding due credit for the numerous discoveries made by Eclectics, but our American Dispensatory and other works on Materia Medica show that we have earned the title to them, i. e. by the right of discovery. Numerous other agents, unknown to the profession till the advent of Eclecticism, are now extensively employed by all physicians, and almost every class of medicinal agents is represented by these concentrated preparations, giving a wide range among which to select a remedy in the treatment of almost every variety of disease. We have other cathartics, laxatives and cholagogues, as the Irisin, Phytolacin, Juglandin, Leptandrin and Euonymin; Tonics and Anti-periodics, as Hydrastin, Ptelein, Prunin, Liriodendrin, Aletridin, Chelonin, Cornin, etc.; Nervines, as Scutellarin, Cypripedin, Lupulin, and Viburnin; Emmenagogues, as Macrotyn, Caulophyllin, and Senecin; Diaphoretics, as Asclepin, Dioscorein, Eupatorin; Alteratives, as Amprelopsin, Chimaphilin, Corydalin and Stillingin; Diuretics, as, Chimaphilin, Helonin, Menispermin; Astringents, as Rhusin, Geranin, Hamamelin, Trilliin; together with Sedatives, Sialagogues, Emetics, Stimulants, Expectorants, Laxatives, Vermifuges, Antispasmodics, Styptics, Anodynes and other classes of remedies obtained solely from indigenous plants, harmless but efficient, and which are largely finding their way into the Materia Medica of the physician, superseding others of a more uncertain and dangerous character. I think it desirable that all our physicians should use them as far as may be convenient; they possess, most of them, other and several properties besides those here enumerated, and are capable of fulfilling a variety of indications, they have great powers in a small compass, and may be so combined, in saccharine, mucilaginous or aromatic vehicles as to render them not disagreeable to the taste.

The elaboration, testing and introduction of these articles into the practice of medicine would be a great achievement for physicians of any school of practice, and that Eclectics have added to and enriched the materia medica by a great variety of medicinal agents hitherto unknown to the profession, is as important as it is true. They are coming into use among all classes of physicians, both in this country and in Europe. Thousands of dollars worth of them are annually sent from this to foreign countries, and from reports in the London Lancet and other medical journals, physicians are highly gratified with their effects, and say they more than bear out their reputation here, and exceed in efficiency what they were led to expect from them, from the enconiums passed upon them in this country. The Homœopaths have introduced them into their recent works, and recommend and use them in extenso.

We may well feel proud at what we have accomplished in this department of medicine; we have achieved a good work that shall last through all time, but we should not cease, there are many other remedies yet undiscovered, and the same determination, the same energy and spirit of investigation should still animate us to persevere that we may add still more to what we have already done, and seek harmless and efficient remedies to ameliorate all the ills of mankind, and drive forever from therapeutics those which have already done too much harm. And the time will eventually come when our labors shall be appreciated, when we shall be awarded the testimonials for their origin which we claim.

Penetrating Wounds of the Thorax. BY ISAAC IDLEWILD, M. D.

The treatment of penetrating and perforating wounds of the thorax by the process called "hermetically sealing," presents some advantages worthy of consideration. accomplished by carefully cleansing and deeply incising the edges of the wound and coapting them by sutures, straps and collodion. The object is to favor and secure union by "first intention." The advantages gained are as follows: Hæmorrhage is controlled: at the most the amount of blood lost after the operation cannot be more than would suffice to fill the unoccupied space remaining in the pleural cavity—the resulting elastic coagulum becoming an excellent styptic for the wounded vessels of the yielding lung. Atmospheric pressure, the immediate tendency of which is to produce painful dyspnœa and death, is removed, and decomposition of the clot in the pleural cavity is proportionately retarded, and suppuration, if not altogether prevented, is greatly diminished, as well as modified, by shutting out the constantly renewed currents of air which otherwise would favor extensive and profuse suppuration of a fætid and offensive character.

In all serious gun-shot-wounds of the trunk rest and quietude must be enjoined; and the importance of this cannot be overestimated. The force of gravity even in a simple change of position will tend to tear the partially formed recent and tender adhesions, on the uninterrupted continuity of which depends the success of the surgeon's efforts and the relief of his anxieties.

Usually during the "shock," or period of partial suspension of the vital forces which immediately follows a wound of this class, stimulants should be freely administered until reaction is well established. Persistent attempts to probe wounds of any of the cavities are worse than useless and should be condemned. As soon as the organic functions are fully restored and the patient placed in favorable position and under as comfortable conditions as surrounding circum-

stances will allow, take measures to remove the missive if its locality is readily apparent and reasonably accessible, and also any spiculae of bone or other foreign substances; then cleanse the surrounding and adjacent surfaces and incise the border of the wound down to the bone. Secure the coaptation of the fleshy edges by sutures, and further seal the orifice by straps of lint saturated with collodion. morphia in effectual and frequent doses to insure quiet and freedom from pain. If inflammatory symptoms manifest themselves, alternate your morphine with tincture of vera-. trum viride and aconite, in doses of one to three drops of each in a wineglass of water. Relieve the bladder with the catheter and let the bowels alone for a week at least. soon as the usual dryness of the tongue is succeeded by moisture and relish for food, give nourishing and wholesome broths. If suppuration supervenes, don't forget your quinine, the ferruginous tonics, wine and eggs. A tepid sponge bath two or three times a week is sure to produce a grateful feeling.

During the sultry days of July and August, phagedenic phenomena may be looked for and very often will not disappoint the fears of the watchful Surgeon. Let these be promptly met with saturated solutions of zinci sulphas externally applied and they will retreat in good order.

Oases in Practice: Two cases of Nocturnal Incontinence of Urine treated by the "Solution of Persulphate of Iron," "Monsel's Solution," U. S. P.

BY O. E. NEWTON, M. D.

Miss ——, age, fifteen years, was brought to me for consultation last October, for the following condition:

From a young child, she was the subject of constant attention. Notwithstanding every precaution that was used, the bed-clothing would be soiled in the morning. As she grew older, several medical men were consulted on the matter; but in no instance was this periodical difficulty removed,

or even modified. She now being a young lady, her condition was worse than before. Her own clothing, and the bed, each morning, would show evidence of the most profuse evacuations.

I made the following prescription:

Ŗ	Solution of Persulphate of iron	3 ix.
	Tr. Cantharides	3 ix.
	Fld. Ext. Hydrastis Canadensis	
	Aque Menth. Pip. } aa	Зj.
	Syr. Simplex	
Mx.	sig. dose, one tablespoonful four times per day, in a little	e water.

Before half the prescription was used, this nocturnal difficulty was arrested; but, as a preventive, the balance was ordered to be used; and, from that time to the present, she has not been troubled more than is natural.

In the month of November following, I was consulted by the parents of a young girl, aged eight years, who was similarly affected. This case was a very troublesome one. With all the precaution of avoiding, almost totally, the use of fluids, and with personal attention to the child upon retiring to bed—the parents requiring the child to evacuate the bladder before she retired each night—the result was invariably the same—a saturation of her clothing and the clothing of In this case, I gave only four ounces of the prescription, forty drops four times per day, when the case was entirely cured, and there has been no return of the nocturnal discharges.

The object of this notice is to call the attention of the readers of the Medical Review to its result in my hands. Though upon a further or more extended use it might not be so satisfactory, in those two cases, however, it acted to my entire satisfaction.

The first case referred to was one that I had tried all the usual treatment for such a difficulty, without the least favorable impression whatever. There are no cases in the practice of medicine more difficult to cure; and certainly there are none more embarrassing to the patient. I hope a further trial will be made of its use. [Cincinnati, O.

Oil of Erigeron in Diseases of the Throat,

BY D. E. SMITH, M. D.

This medicine has been a popular remedy with eclectics for many years in uterine hemorrhages, epistaxes, hematuria, hemoptysis, etc., etc.; but in throat diseases I believe its remedial value is not generally known.

Dr. Robert Tuttle, of Poughkeepsie, called my attention to the use of this medicine, in the above-named disease, about five years ago, since which time I have prescribed it quite extensively, and am prepared to add my testimony to its usefulness as a topical remedy, in many diseases of the throat, incident to our country, more particularly those of a chronic form. There are two preparations of this oil sold by druggists. One has a dark red appearance, while the other is a light yellow or straw color. The latter article is the one I have been in the habit of prescribing. It has a strong pungent smell, but not unpleasant to the taste. Whether this straw colored oil is distilled from the Erigeron Philadelphicum, or the Erigeron Canadensis, I am unable to say positively, but I am under the impression that it is from the latter.

The manner of using it is to take a camel's hair brush, dip it into the oil and paint the fauces and all other adjacent parts involved. It should be done after eating, or at bed time. No drink or food to be allowed for at least one hour after the application. After using the brush it should be placed in cold water, and allowed to remain there until used again. Without this precaution, the brush becomes stiff and useless. Before again using the brush, the water should be absorbed from it, so as to prevent diluting the oil.

This medicine has a peculiar soothing and curative effect, which will be observed by the patient as well as the physician after a few applications.

Perhaps I could not illustrate better the idea I wish to convey of the action of this oil in the above-named disease, than to give the treatment and the results of one or two cases that came under my observation:

Miss M— applied to me for treatment of the throat in September last. She was passionately fond of singing, and was one of a quartette club who furnished the vocal music in one of the large churches of Brooklyn. She had been under the professional care of a number of physicians of this city, with but little, if any, benefit, and was obliged, in consequence, to give up her favorite amusement, singing. In fact, her voice was hoarse, broken, and the melody destroyed. Examination of the throat showed a sub-acute inflammation of the fauces, with patches of partial ulceration, producing a very unpleasant feeling and constant tickling in the throat, with a disposition to back, and some difficulty in swallowing, much aggravated after the least exposure to cold. I prescribed the chlorate of potassa, and gave it a faithful trial with only partial benefit. I determined to try the Oil of Erigeron, and prescribed one ounce of it, directing it to be applied once a day, after the morning meal. A few applications of this remedy produced an entire alteration, changing the secretions from an unhealthy to a normal condition, and in two weeks, by the use of the Erigeron alone, a thorough cure was effected, and remains so up to the present time. She has resumed her singing, and is now well.

I could mention numerous other cases cured by this remedy, but deem the above sufficient to call the attention of the profession to the medicine, and its use in these diseases.

I would add, moreover, that in the sore throats peculiar to consumptives, it acts better than anything I have ever used. Brooklyn, April 12th, 1866.

Separation of Pelvic Bones in Parturition.

BY A. B. WHITNEY, M. D.

I propose to give the history of an exceedingly interesting case, illustrative of this fact—the separation of the pelvic bones—which came under my own observation and treatment.

The patient was Mrs. Sophia M-, aged 24 years. She

had been married four years, and this was her first pregnancy. Her health was delicate and precarious. For some time she had suffered from the singular affection termed "Pott's Disease," affecting the 8th, 9th and 10th vertebræ dorsales, producing a very marked angular curvature forwards, complicated with considerable lateral deviation from a normal position. The left shoulder appeared to be raised one or two inches above the right. The left radius and ulna were also curved, which she affirmed to be the result of carrying a market basket on that arm. The femoral bones were both curved, presenting a singular arch, describing together very nearly the form of an ellipse. She was of course unable to stand erect, and when walking presented a marked deformity.

During the past two years she had been under general tonic treatment for scrofula, had attended many of the college clinics, and received professional advice from distinguished surgeons. During the period of gestation she had, however, refrained from taking medicine, except the tincture of cinchona, which she continued as a tonic, with some benefit, until the time of delivery.

My first acquaintance with the patient was in answer to an urgent call made about 3 P. M. She had then been in labor about eighteen hours, and had become very much exhausted, depressed and nervous. She had been attended by two physicians, who had rendered all the assistance deemed practicable, and who, at the time of my visit, had abandoned the case as hopeless to both mother and child. The nurse was still in attendance, and exceedingly anxious for the patient's safety.

Upon making an examination, I discovered to my great surprise that the bony structure of the pelvis was quite movable, yielding even to the slightest pressure, and giving, when pressed on either side, a peculiar rocking motion. This, at first, was not very well understood. The phenomena, however, were noted and particularly watched, while proceeding with the main object to ascertain the position, and if practicable, remove the difficulty.

Without entering into minute detail, allow me to say that the os uteri was fully dilated—the dorsum of the fœtus presenting. Passing the hand along the back towards the left acetabulum the nates became very perceptible, while reversing the movement and passing along the dorsum towards the right acetabulum, the dorsum colli et capitis were perfectly distinct.

I then proceeded in the usual way to produce podolic version, which was readily accomplished, occupying only a very few minutes. The yielding and rocking motion of the pelvis facilitated and rendered the operation extremely easy, both to the patient and accoucheur. The uterine contractions, though exceedingly feeble, being quite sufficient, the delivery was completed without further delay. Such was, indeed, the mobility, the expansion and the elastic nature of the articulations, that it would seem impossible for labor to be long delayed under any form of presentation, assisted by skilful management.

The special phenomena developed in this case, as already named, are the looseness and elasticity of the three articulations, of the ossa innominata, and of the symphysis pubis, permitting a separation of the latter from one-half to three-fourths of an inch, and of the former probably about the same. The opening was fully equal to the diameter of the index finger. We give the impression made from a careful examination at the time, and can assure our professional friends, the exact extent of separation will fall within the limits named. The articulations were surprisingly loose, permitting motion and expansion in any direction, thus materially enlarging the diameters of the pelvis, and leaving the passage entirely unobstructed. The relations of the axes of the pelvis were materially altered—the different stages of the process entirely obliterated—and the passage through the delicate "maternal organs" conformed to a right line, thus changing and presenting a new phase altogether to the process of labor.

It is a well-known fact that in certain animals this principle is operative, and permits a positive separation of the

pelvic joints at the time of parturition; but in the human species, according to our observation and experience in attending two hundred and thirty-nine cases during the last two years, it does not generally prevail. Out of this large number of cases, I have noticed only the one instance described above, and feel disposed to regard it, under all its attendant circumstances, as a mere "freak of nature."

The treatment of this case, immediately after delivery, consisted in the application of an extra bandage drawn tight to restrain the motion of the pelvis, and confine the bones, as far as practicable, to their normal position; and the usual remedies and appliances necessary to check the profuse hemorrhage which occurred at the time. These succeeded admirably. The hemorrhage soon subsided; the bones speedily returned to their normal position, and daily became more firm and unyielding. The general health of the patient also improved, and soon became quite vigorous. The babe was bright, plump and healthy, grew as fast, and appeared in all respects as well as others in their early infancy. At the end of eight weeks the patient was completely restored in health and strength, and the bones of the pelvis as compact and firm as if no separation had ever taken place.

New York city, 156 W. 25th street.

Periscope.

Deodorization and Disinfection.—The Hastings Prize Essay for 1865, on this subject, by Dr. Thos. Herbert Baker, is published in the number of the British Medical Journal for January 6, 1866. The following is a summary of the author's conclusions:

- 1. For the sick-room, free ventilation, when it can be secured together with an even temperature, is all that can be required.
- 2. For rapid deodorization and disinfection, chlorine is the most effective agent known.

- 3. For steady and continuous effect, ozene is the best agent known.
- 4. In the absence of ozone, indine exposed, in the solid form, to the air is the best.
- 5. For the deodorization and disinfection of fluid and semi-fluid substances undergoing decomposition, iodine is best.
- 6. For the deodorization and disinfection of solid bodies that cannot be destroyed, a mixture of powdered chloride of zinc or powdered sulphate of zinc, with sawdust, is best. After this, a mixture of carbolic acid and sawdust ranks next in order; and, following on that, wood-ashes.
- 7. For the deodorization and disinfection of infected articles of clothing, etc., exposure to heat at 212° Fahr. is the only true method.
- 8. For the deodorization and disinfection of substances that may be destroyed, heat to destruction is the true method.

Constituents of Veratrum Viride.—Mr. Charles Bullock (Amer. Journ. Pharm., March, 1866) publishes some interesting investigations made by him relative to the alkaloids in the veratrum viride. The following is a summary of his conclusions:—

- 1. That veratrum viride contains two alkaloids, one soluble in ether and the other insoluble in that menstruum. Neither of these principles answers in its chemical reactions to veratria.
- 2. That the resinous matter which precipitates when the concentrated tincture of the root is poured into acidulated water carries down with it a notable portion of the alkaloid insoluble in ether.
- 3. That the alkaloid insoluble in ether, when administered in small doses, has a very perceptible sedative effect on the circulation without producing any other disturbance.
- 4. That the pure resin produces sedative effects nearly or quite equal to those obtained from the alkaloid.

On Acethetics.—By J. M. CARNOCHAN, M. D., Surgeon in Chief to the State Emigrant's Hospital, New York, etc., etc.

I desire to present through the pages of the Medical and Surgical Reporter a general statement of the facts respecting three surgical operations which I performed, using nitrous oxide gas, administered by Dr. Colton, as the anæsthetic, and my opinion on the value of this agent as compared with chloroform and ether.

The first operation took place on the 22d of last July, and was the removal of the entire breast and glands of the axilla, for cancer. The patient, a lady in feeble health, was suffering from disease of the throat and lungs and general debility. In thirty-five seconds from the time she began inhaling the gas, she was in a profound anæsthetic sleep. She remained insensible for sixteen consecutive minutes, until the operation was completed, and in forty seconds, from the time the bag was removed, awoke to consciousness without nausea, sickness, or vomiting, as is so often the case with the inhalation of chloroform and sulphuric ether.

The second and third capital operations occurred at the State Emigrant's Hospital, on the 2d of December, and consisted of two amputations of the leg. The time required to produce an anæsthetic sleep in the first patient, a male adult, extremely debilitated and worn out by disease, was forty-five seconds; whole duration of the operation and influence, two minutes and a quarter. No nausea or unpleasant symptoms.

The third operation was on a boy of about thirteen years of age. The time consumed in the inhalation, operation and recovery from the anæsthetic sleep was two minutes, the gas working equally as in the other cases, and the patient, after complete anæsthesia, awakening entirely free from unpleasant symptoms.

For minor operations, or for capital operations, such as amputations, which when properly performed should require but a few minutes, I have no hesitation in stating that the nitrous oxide gas, as an anæsthetic, is far superior to either chloroform or ether. Insensibility is suddenly produced,

and the patient recovers consciousness quickly, the operation being attended by no nausea or sickness, and without the dangerous effects often incident to chloroform and ether.

It is worthy of remark that the nitrous oxide gas approximates, in its chemical combination, to the composition of the ordinary atmosphere, and we may thus, inferentially, account for its more favorable influence. Whether it can be used in operations which from their nature require from half an hour to an hour's time, remains still to be proved by actual experiment.

The duration of the anæsthetic influence in the case of the first operation, previously alluded to, is the longest on record; and I may here state that this is the first capital operation performed under the influence of the gas, since the great discovery of Wells of Hartford, twenty-two years ago, that a harmless sleep could be produced by a chemical agent, which could annul for the time being the greatest suffering. It is not at all improbable that had Wells lived and had the boldness to follow up his early successful experiments, chloroform and ether would never have been thought of as anæsthetics.

To G. Q. Colton is due the credit of reviving the use of this important agent, in the practice of dentistry, after a lull of twenty-two years.

The value of a safe anæsthetic agent, which can be used without anticipation of danger by the patient, is a great boon to suffering humanity, and I have related thus minutely its action in my own cases, in the belief, that if similar favorable results are met with by others, the nitrous oxide gas will supersede all other anæsthetics now in use.—Medical and Surgical Reporter, January, 1866.

EDITORIAL.

Object and Plan of the Review.

In establishing an independent medical journal in the great Metropolitan city of the Western Continent, it is proper that we should state some of the leading objects and aims which lead to this action. New York, from its unequalled position, and facilities for study and clinical practice, offers, in addition, many other important inducements for the establishment of a great, central, national school, representing in its best aspects the most enlightened phases of Eclectic Medicine. Such a school has been chartered by a special act of the Legislature, with every legal right and advantage that can be claimed by any medical institution in the State.

The Eclectic Medical Review is designed to be the representative and organ of the Eclectic Medical College of the city of New York, so far as its curriculum, doctrines and professional policy are concerned. It will always be the leading advocate of progressive medicine; and will persistently seek for the truth, and fearlessly proclaim it, despite musty formulas and cramping monastic rules, dictated by the few for the control of the many. Its editorials and criticisms will always aim at the utmost fairness and liberality consistent with the real merits of the subjects discussed.

The Review will seek to win confidence, support, and a national recognition, as the unflinching advocate of the great and distinctive principles of the American Eclectic system of theory and practice of medicine, wholly discarding the deleterious agents which form the basis of the allopathic system of practice. It will also be the organ and willing representative of all who are laboring in the field of progressive medicine, earnestly and honestly, without regard to schools; and will endeavor to record in its columns, at the earliest practicable moment, all novel and important medical and surgical facts, new discoveries, and valuable intelligence, calculated to aid and enlighten the general and special practitioner. It will present in each number, a clinical record of medical and surgical cases.

The system of editorial and special correspondence of the Review is complete, and will embrace a wide range of interesting topics.

The REVIEW will labor, in the most generous and catholic spirit, to build up around the Eclectic Medical College of the city of New

York a noble array of thoroughly educated and scientific professors and practitioners; and will urge forward, with all its energies, the early organization and establishment of a system of free dispensaries, and a general and special hospital, to be under the exclusive professional control of Eclectic physicians and surgeons, and in which the Eclectic system of practice shall be fully and fairly applied. It will also labor for the organization and building up of a great Eclectic medical library and reading room, in which shall be found all the valuable medical publications of the world, and which shall be open to all students and practitioners.

The subject of Epidemic Cholera, and the wonderfully efficient Eclectic treatment of this disease, will receive special attention; and such facts of interest as may be developed during the coming season will be promptly and duly chronicled in its pages.

The Board of Health, Sanitary Reform, and opposing schools of medicine will receive a due share of attention.

Finally, it will stand up for the right, in all things, at all hazards, and at all times; and do its utmost to encourage organization, unity of feeling and effort among Eclectic practitioners, in all parts of the country, and to promote the formation of State and auxiliary Eclectic medical societies, in every State and district of the United States, and a grand national association, which shall embody the entire Eclectic element in medicine on this continent.

ECLECTIC MEDICAL COLLEGE OF THE CITY OF NEW YORK,

CHARTERED APRIL 22d, 1865.

Hon. Wm. F. HAVEMEYER, President.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES.

Wm. P. Strickland, LL. D., Vice-President.

Wm. Moller, Esq., Treasurer.

Henri L. Stuart, Esq., Corresponding Secretary.

Alex. Wilder, Esq., Recording Secretary.

Dennis E. Smith M. D., Albert Havemeyer, Esq.,

Robert S. Newton, M. D., Calvin S. Totman, Esq.,

Andrew W. Russell, M. D., Samuel Tuthill, M. D.,

William W. Hadley, M. D., Frank Tabor, Esq.,

Oliver Charlick, Esq., Martin Thatcher, Esq.

FACULTY.

W. Byrd Powell, M. D., Emeritus Prof. of Cerebral Physiology.

Robert S. Newton, M. D., Prof. of Operative Surgery and Surgical Diseases.

Paul W. Allen, M. D., Prof. of Theory and Practice of Medicine. Wm. W. Hadley, M. D., Prof. of Materia Medica and Therapeutics. Thomas D. Worrall, M. D., Prof. of Obstetrics and Diseases of Women and Children.

Edwin Freeman, M. D., Prof. of Descriptive and Surgical Anatomy. John M. Youart, M. D., Prof of Physiology and Pathology.

* * * Prof. of Chemistry, Pharmacy, and Toxicology.

AN ACT TO INCORPORATE THE ECLECTIC MEDICAL COLLEGE OF THE CITY OF NEW YORK.

PASSED APRIL 22d, 1865.

The People of the State of New York, represented in Senate and Assembly, do enact as follows:

SECTION 1. William Moller, William F. Havemeyer, Robert S. Newton, Dennis E. Smith, Oliver Charlick, Albert Havemeyer, Calvin S. Totman, Andrew W. Russell, Alexander Wilder, William W. Hadley, Samuel Tuthill, H. L. Stuart, William P. Strickland, Frank Tabor, and Martin Thatcher, and their associates and successors in office, are hereby created a body corporate and politic, by the name of the "Eclectic Medical College," to be located in the City of New York, for the purpose of promoting medical science and instruction, and, in that capacity, shall be capable of suing and being sued, pleading and being impleaded, defending and being defended, as any other body corporate, in any of the courts of this State.

§ 2. The said corporation shall constitute the board of trustees, with power to fill any vacancy that may occur in the board. They shall have a common seal, which they may alter or renew at pleasure; they may purchase, hold and possess real and personal estate to the amount of three hundred thousand dollars; they may hold and dispose of property in their corporate capacity; and the funds or property thereof shall not be used for any other purpose than that declared in the first section of this act, and for the establishment and maintenance of a Dispensary and Hospital in connection with the aforesaid college.

- § 3. The board of trustees shall appoint a faculty, which shall consist of at least six professors, who shall be competent to deliver lectures for the proper instruction of students in the various departments of medical science, which shall include materia medica, obstetrics, medical jurisprudence, practice of medicine and surgery.
- § 4. The medical faculty of this college, together with the board of trustees, shall be authorized to confer the degree of doctor of medicine upon such persons as this degree is conferred on by medical colleges generally throughout the United States. But no student shall be allowed to present himself as a candidate for graduation in this college, until he shall present to the faculty thereof satisfactory testimonials that he is twenty-one years of age; that he is of good moral character; that he has been regularly engaged in the study of physic and surgery, with some respectable practitioner, for the term of three years, and that he has attended two full courses of lectures, in some legally incorporated medical college, the last of which shall have been attended in this college. But it is hereby provided that any individual who is a graduate from any legally incorporated medical college, or any one who may have been, for four years next preceding, engaged in a constant and reputable practice of medicine, and shall have attended one full course of medical lectures in this college, shall be permitted to present himself as a candidate for graduation before the faculty and board thereof. In testimony whereof, a diploma shall be provided and signed by the president, secretary, and faculty of said college, to which shall be affixed its corporate seal, and which shall have the same force and effect as a license to practise physic and surgery as are given by law to the license granted by any incorporated medical society or college in this State.
- § 5. The faculty and board of this college shall not be permitted to grant a diploma to any applicant, unless an honorary diploma to an eminent practitioner of medicine, or a diploma ad eundem, until such applicant shall have passed a thorough, critical, and impartial examination; which examination shall be made by said faculty, and shall include the various departments of medical science enumerated in section three of this act.
- § 6. The board of trustees shall consist of not less than eleven, nor more than fifteen members, a majority of whom shall constitute a quorum for doing business; and those appointed by the first section of this act shall have the power to perform all the duties which

the said board is hereby authorized to perform, until their successors shall have been chosen and qualified.

- § 7. The college shall be subject to the visitation of the regents of the university; and the trustees shall report to them on the first day of October in each year.
- § 8. The corporation hereby created shall possess the powers, and be subject to the provisions of the eighteenth chapter of the Revised Statutes, so far as the same are applicable.
 - § 9. This act shall take effect immediately.

STATE OF NEW YORK,
Office of the Secretary of State.

I have compared the preceding with the original law on the file in this office, and do hereby certify that the same is a correct transcript therefrom, and of the whole of said original law.

CHAUNCEY M. DEPEW, Secretary of State.

CIRCULAR ADDRESS TO THE MEDICAL PROFESSION OF THE UNITED STATES.

The Board of Trustees and Faculty of the Eclectic Medical College of the City of New York, in this their first annual address to the medical profession of the country, think it proper to briefly define their position with reference to the principles of the American Eclectic system of medicine. The leading doctrine of the Eclectic profession is, that the investigation and practice of medicine should be free and untrammelled. That no association should have the power to prescribe a certain standard of faith which shall be forced upon every member of the profession by threats of professional obloquy and ostracism. We claim for ourselves, and extend to others, full liberty of investigation and action. We recognize every enlightened and educated physician as standing on the same platform of professional respectability, and enjoying the same right, no matter what doctrines in medicine he may advocate, or what system of practice he may deem it his duty to adopt.

The name Eclectic commends itself at once, to all who approve of liberal investigation, and who deem it their duty to gather knowledge from every available source. It is the most appropriate, because of the fact, that American medical reform owes its existence to an eclectic freedom of investigation, a departure from the dogmas of the schools, and an eclectic research into nature, and in the results of

various clinical experience by all classes of observers. These researches have not resulted in mere accumulation of materials, but in addition, the introduction of a great number of new and superior remedies, the discarding of a number of dangerous and poisonous agents, for which more efficient, and, at the same time, perfectly safe substitute, have been obtained, and a great and comprehensive system of safe and rational practice has been organized, upon the basis of the widest and most enlightened practical experience.

Eclecticism aims to enlarge and improve the most important portion of practical medicine, viz., materia medica, in exploring our indigenous medical botany, and obtaining the medicinal principles isolated from each plant, so as to administer in the smallest dose, and most agreeable form.

It is a distinctive and fundamental principle of the eclectic system of practice, that no medical treatment should be allowed that permanently impairs the vital powers. In the choice of remedies, those should be preferred which are safest, and are calculated to act in accordance with physiological laws. We reject the most pernicious features of allopathic practice, such as blood-letting, the use of poisonous metals, such as mercury, antimony, arsenic, etc., their use being a gross violation of the dictates of sound medical philosophy, based on an extensive and enlightened experience.

The use of these deleterious agents has filled the civilized world with invalids, and brought millions to premature graves, and made it almost impossible to find a single individual, who has used them, that is not, to a greater or less degree, affected by their pernicious influence. The fancied necessity for the use of mercury, for its power over the liver, is well known, by all well-informed eclectic practitioners, to be a delusion. Without the use of mercury, and its dangerous morbid after-consequences, we safely and promptly produce a much more efficient cholagogue and alterative action, by means of the distinctive eclectic remedies.

In the practice of surgery, as well as in other departments, the remarkable improvements and superior results of eclectic medicine, in comparison with all that has been accomplished by the highest allopathic skill, challenge professional scrutiny.

In New York are concentrated all facilities for the most complete medical education. The hospital advantages are unsurpassed, and free to all medical students. The Eclectic Medical College of the City of New York, with an able and complete Faculty, to teach

thoroughly all departments of medicine, will at once assume a position among medical schools, second to none in the country.

HOSPITALS, INFIRMARIES, DISPENSARIES.

1st. The New York Hospital.—The largest surgical hospital in this country. It is open to the students daily at $1\frac{1}{2}$ o'clock, P. M., throughout the year, when they are permitted to attend the clinical instructions of the physicians and surgeons, and to witness the surgical operations, which are almost of daily occurrence. The library contains over six thousand volumes; and the hospital museum, which is also open to students, consists of the most interesting pathological specimens, obtained from post mortem examinations made in the Institution, to which examinations students are admitted. Admittance to the hospital is free.

- 2d. Bellevue Hospital.—This extensive institution, the Charity Hospital of New York City, is also open to all medical students for the clinical study of disease. It contains one thousand beds, and the number of patients treated annually, is from 10,000 to 12,500. Clinical lectures and surgical operations daily, throughout the year. Students are admitted to the post mortem examinations. Regular operating days, Wednesdays and Saturdays, at 1½ o'clock P. M.
- 3d. EMIGRANT HOSPITAL.—The finest and best-arranged hospital in the world. The hospital buildings contain accommodations for about two thousand persons. The number of patients treated annually is about 8,000.
- 4th. St. Vincent's Hospital—Jews' Hospital—St. Luke's Hospital—The Colored Home—Women's Hospital—Lying-in Asylum—Blackwell's Island Hospital.—These are large and important institutions.
- 5th. EYE AND EAR INFIRMARY.—This institution makes ample and special provision for the study of disease of the eye and ear. Five thousand cases of disease were exhibited to the students during the past year, and special courses of instruction in the anatomy and physiology of the eye, and the use of the ophthalmoscope established. The operating theatre and the daily clinical lectures are arranged for the convenience of the students, and every facility provided for a thorough knowledge of ophthalmic and aural surgery.
- 6th. DISPENSARIES OF THE CITY.—These charities, which afford a wide field for practical observation, are also without charge. Some

idea may be formed of the value of these dispensaries to medical science, when it is stated that, every year, more than 80,000 patients are treated by the physicians and surgeons in attendance. In these institutions, the diseases are arranged into distinct classes—such as diseases of the head, chest, abdomen, extremities; fevers, eruptive diseases, etc. Auscultation, percussion, etc., may be practised to any extent.

In addition to the above clinical advantages, medical instructions will be imparted by means of cliniques, held at the College.

PRACTICAL ANATOMY.

The supply of material for dissection is ample, and furnished at a mere nominal price.

REQUISITES FOR GRADUATION.

Candidates for the degree of Doctor of Medicine must present satisfactory evidence that they have attained the age of twenty-one years, and are of good moral character; they must have studied medicine three years, with some respectable practitioner, and have attended two full courses of lectures, in some legally incorporated college, the last of which shall have been attended in this college; or they must have studied medicine two years, and attended three full courses of lectures, the last of which shall have been attended in this college; or they must have been engaged in a constant and reputable practice of medicine for four years, and have attended one full course of lectures in this college.

COURSE OF INSTRUCTION.

The session for 1866-'67 will embrace preliminary and regular terms. The preliminary term will commence on October 1st; and the regular term, October 15th.

Fees for a full course,		•	•	•	\$ 105
Matriculation Fee	•	•	•	-	5
Demonstrator's Fee,		•	•	•	5
Graduation Fee, .	•	•	•		30

Hospital tickets gratuitous.

Good boarding, in the vicinity of the College, may be had for five dollars per week.

The Eclectic school books are recommended.

For further information apply to

ROBERT S. NEWTON, M. D.,

22 E. 18th st.

REVIEWS AND BIBLIOGRAPHICAL NOTICES.

DESCRIPTIVE CATALOGUE OF FLUID AND SOLID EXTRACTS IN VACUO, ALSO CONCENTRATIONS AND OFFICINAL PILLS, prepared by HENRY THAYER

& Co., with Formulas and Receipts.

This book, besides containing what its title page imports, arranged alphabetically, has with each article its proportion of combination, so as to form tinctures, plasters, ointments, liniments, syrups, infusions, mixtures, &c., arranged in a neat, concise, and methodical manner. It also has a physician's dose list, and a table of miscellaneous formulas and receipts. It is a work of 218 pages, handsomely bound in cloth, printed in clear, beautiful type on good paper, &c., and contains much useful material for the physician.

URINO-PATHOLOGY, or the "Uroscopian System" of diagnosing diseases, by ocular, chemical, and microscopic examinations of the urine. Accompanied by an illustrated chart of urinary deposits, representing the microscopic appearance of more than sixty different varieties of ingredients found in the urine, by L. Oldshue, M. D., Prof. of Pathology in the Philadelphia University of Medicine and Surgery. Price \$3.00.

Such a work is a very valuable addition to every professional man's library, for it gives him the means of applying the critical tests in diagnosing diseases, when the peculiarly obscure character of the malady may, under ordinary tests, make him undecided as to its exact location or character.

The author does not recommend it as an exclusive means of diagnosis, but as a very valuable adjuvant. The book contains a synopsis of the constituents of the body, means of examining the urine optically, chemically, and microscopically, and its constituents represented by a chart admirably gotten up. The several principles of Pathology are then discussed, and the tests applied to a large class of diseases, including inflammations and fevers.

The book is neatly bound in leather, and printed in very readable type.

The author is one of the pioneers of Eclecticism, and is well entitled to be heard.

A NEW WORK ON CHOLERA, by E. WHITNEY, M. D., of New York City. 200 pp. Price by mail \$1.00. Address, 156 W. 25th St.

We have had an opportunity of examining the manuscript of this work, and find it a valuable book, and arranged as follows: on its appearance we will notice it fully.

CHOLERA INDICA.

CHAPTER I.

Sec. I. Origin and Development. Sec. II. Progress and Fatality.

Sec. III. Causes—Propagation.

CHAPTER II.

Sec. I. Pathology.

Sec. II. Phenomena—or Symptoms.

CHAPTER III.

Sec. I. Unsuccessful Modes of Treatment—Venous Transfusion Explained.

Sec. II. Physiological Condition of the Blood—Its non-aeration—non-oxydation.

Sec. III. Different Modes of Treatment.

Sec. IV. Statistics—Percentage of Loss—Variable Results—their Cause.

CHAPTER IV.

Sec. I. General Principle of Rational Practice—Dictated by the Pathology of the Disease—Confirmed by Observation and Experience.

Sec. II. Remedies, Recipes, &c.

Sec. III. Prophylaxis—or Means of Prevention. Sec. IV. Disinfection—Protection—Quarantine.

THE AMERICAN ART JOURNAL.

Mr. Henry C. Watson, the eminent musical composer and critic, and one of the best informed authorities upon music in America, has improved his Art Journal, and added to it features of rare merit. The necessity for a Journal that shall fully represent the interests of art, and of music especially, has long been felt. There are rivalries in music and art which too often sway the opinions of those who claim to be critical, and prevent us from knowing the truth. Mr. Watson has escaped these, and commends himself to general esteem by his honesty and candor, as well as by his knowledge of art in all its branches. In the management of his paper, Mr. Watson possesses unrivalled facilities, and presents unrivalled attractions. He gives us monthly an original piece of new music, from a first class composer, on separate sheets. He gathers the art news of all the world, digests and collates it, and gives us in a small space, everything in art of personal or professional interest.

The American Art Journal now surpasses every journal of the kind in America, in the variety of its information, the honesty of its criticisms, and the brilliancy of its style. It is really an Art Journal in the most artistic sense of that phrase. We are glad to know that a deserved success and popularity are accorded to it.

NEW YORK TRIBUNE, (ENLARGED).—With the commencement of the 25th year of the life of the Tribune, on the 10th of April, 1866, its Editor and Proprietors decided to enlarge the Daily, Semi-weekly

and Weekly issues. The paper as thus improved and extended, is now the largest and noblest appearing sheet in America, and it also has the most extended circulation, while its style and arrangement of type and matter, leaves but little to be achieved or desired in the way of improvement. Its Editorial staff with the world's most renowned and greatest journalist and historian of the Rebellion, Horace Greeley, at its head, supported by Sydney H. Gay, the admirable writer, as Managing Editor, with Smalley, Young, Schem and Syphur as assistants, and George Ripley the eminent scholar and author at the head of the Literary Critical Department; Henry C. Watson the unrivalled Musical Critic and Composer, occupying the chair long filled by the late brilliant, genial, and trenchant W. H. Fry, as Musical Editor, with Clarence Cook wielding the Art critical pen, and Wm. Winter that of Dramatic Criticism, with Urner, Crane, and Hagar on its reportorial staff, the Tribune cannot fail to increase in popularity, prosperity, power and influence beyond all successful rivalry. With Samuel Sinclair controlling its business destinies, its financial prosperity cannot fail to be unprecedented. The Tribune was the first daily paper in the country to stereotype its forms. All modern mechanical devices for facilitating labor, find a ready and welcome consideration in the Tribune Establishment, and a most generous and liberal policy prevails therein. Its Editorial and Critical Departments require no eulogy. Mr. Greeley has thrown the ægis of his own grand and noble manhood over these departments of the Tribune, and its influence goes out everywhere to encourage, educate, sustain and enlighten all classes, but especially the toiling millions of the people.

NEWS AND MISCELLANY.

State Eclectic Medical Societies.

AN ACT FOR THE INCORPORATION OF THE ECLECTIC MEDICAL SOCIETY OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK, AND AUXILIARY LOCAL ECLECTIC MEDICAL ASSOCIATIONS.

Passed April 24th, 1865.

The People of the State of New York, represented in Senate and Assembly, do enact as follows:

SECTION 1. Robert S. Newton, of the city of New York, A. W. Russell, of Albany, Benjamin F. Arnold, of Pawling, Dutchess county, Calvin S. Totman, of Syracuse, William W. Hadley, of Brooklyn, D. E. Smith, Jacob Van Valkenburgh and their associates, are hereby declared to be a body corporate and politic, by the style and name of the Eclectic

Medical Society of the State of New York, and by that name shall be in law capable of suing and being sued, pleading and being impleaded, answering and being answered, defending and being defended in all courts and places, and in all matters and causes whatsoever, and shall have and use a common seal with authority to alter and renew the same at pleasure.

§ 2. The said society shall hereafter be composed of members duly chosen as its by-laws shall direct; and at its annual meetings, the members in attendance, not less than fifteen in number, may elect a president, and such other officers as may be deemed proper, who shall hold their offices for one year, and until others shall be chosen in their places. It shall be lawful for said society to purchase and hold real property for its

use, not exceeding in value the sum of twenty thousand dollars.

§ 3. The recording secretary shall file in the office of the secretary of state a copy of the constitution and by-laws of said society, and a copy of the journal of the proceedings had at the first meeting held after the passage of this act; he shall also provide a book in which he shall record all the resolutions and proceedings which may be had from time to time, also the name of every member of the society, his residence and the time of his admission into the society, and also the annual and other reports relative to the condition of the treasury, and all such other matters as a majority of the society shall deem proper. It shall be lawful for any member of the society at all times to have recourse to this book, and it shall be delivered, together with all books, papers and records which may be in the hands of the secretary and the property of the society, to his successor in office. He shall also in the month of January in each year, make a report to the legislature, embracing the journals, records of scientific discoveries, and other papers upon medical or surgical subjects ' which may be prepared under the directions of the society.

§ 4. It shall be lawful for physicians who subscribe to the constitution of the Eclectic Medical Society of the State of New York, to meet together in each of the counties of the state, or in other localities to be specified in their call for such assemblage, and organize medical societies for the county, district or locality in which they reside, subject to the approval and sanction of the aforesaid state society. Such societies, when so organized and sanctioned, shall elect a president and other officers, and shall file in the office of the clerk of the county where such meeting shall be held, a copy of the constitution, by-laws and proceedings

held at such meeting.

§ 5. All the powers, privileges and immunities now conferred by law upon the State Medical Society and the State Homepathic Medical Society and upon the county medical societies and upon the county homepathic medical societies, except granting the degree of doctor in medicine, are hereby conferred upon the several societies incorporated pursuant to this act, and the said societies shall be subject to the duties and responsibilities to which state and county medical societies are subject under the laws of the state.

STATE OF NEW YORK,
Office of the Secretary of State.

I have compared the preceding with the original law on file in this office, and do hereby certify that the same is a correct transcript therefrom and of the whole of said original law.

CHAUNCEY M. DEPEW, Secretary of State.

NEW YORK STATE ECLECTIC MEDICAL SOCIETY.

Officers, elected June 14th, 1865.

President—Robert S. Newton, M. D., New York.

Vice-President-Calvin S. Totman, M.D., Syracuse.

Recording Secretary—WM. W. HADLEY, M. D., Williamsburg.

Corresponding Secretary—C. S. Preston, M. D., Rochester.

Treasurer—D. E. SMITH, M. D., Brooklyn.

Censors—Dr. H. E. Firth, Brooklyn; Dr. Geo. W. Davis, Seneca Falls; Dr. L. Staunton, Copenhagen; Dr. H. Pease, Schenectady; Dr. O. Davis, Attica; Dr. J. G. Tross, Syracuse; Dr. A. W. Russell, Albany; Dr. Wm. Jones, Newberg.

Dr. C. S. Totman of Syracuse, was appointed orator.

DR. B. ARNOLD, Dutchess Co., and DR. B. J. Stow, Brooklyn, were appointed essayists for the next annual meeting, which is to be held at the Cooper Institute, New York, the second Wednesday and Thursday in June, (18th & 14th,) 1866.

MASS. ECLECTIC MEDICAL SOCIETY.—Officers elected June 1st, 1868.

President—S. C. Ames, M.D., Boston.

Vice-President-Wm. Bass, M. D., Lowell.

Corresponding Secretary--C. E. MILES, M. D., Roxbury.

Recording Secretary—PAUL W. ALLEN, M. D., Taunton.

Treasurer—W. E. WRIGHT, M.D., Cambridgeport.

Librarian—J. Jackson, M. D., Boston.

Counsellors—Dr. W. E. Underwood, Boston; Dr. John Stowe, Lawrence; Dr. J. T. Dickens, Newburyport; Dr. F. A. Bosworth, Grafton.

H. W. Buxton, M. D., Worcester, was appointed Orator for the next annual meeting. Wm. E. Underwood, M. D., Boston, anniversary chairman.

The next annual meeting will be held in Boston, the second Wednesday in June, 1866.

MAINE ECLECTIC MEDICAL SOCIETY.—Officers elected June 28th, 1865.

President—Horatio G. Newton, M. D., Portland.

Vice-President-George H. Day, M. D., Bangor.

Corresponding Secretary—H. W. Hobbs, M. D., Lisbon Falls.

Recording Secretary—John Parker, M. D., Biddeford.

Treasurer—N. R. Martin, M. D., Saccarappa.

Librarian—S. C. Libby, M. D., Saco.

Counsellors—Dr. S. Anderson of Bath; Dr. W. R. Wright of Durham; and Dr. J. T. Bascom, of Portland.

Dr. S. C. Libby was appointed to deliver the annual address. Drs. N. R. Martin and G. H. Day were appointed essayists.

The next annual meeting of the society will be held in Portland, fourth Wednesday in June, 1866.

OHIO ECLECTIC MEDICAL SOCIETY.—Officers elected May 31st, 1865.

President—Prof. John King, M. D., Cincinnati.

Vice-Presidents—A. M. Conklin, M.D., Delaware; and James Anton, Lebanon.

Recording Secretary—John Doyle, M. D., Cincinnati.

Corresponding Secretary—T. L. A. GREVE, M. D., Cincinnati.

Treasurer—Prof. J. M. Scudder, M. D., Cincinnati.

The next annual meeting of the society will be held in Cincinnati, last Wednesday in May, 1866.

Penn. Eclectic Medical Society.—Officers elected January 5th, 1866.

President-Henry Hallembaek, M. D., Burlington, N. J.

Vice-Presidents—Wm. Clark, M. D.; Edward Down, M. D. Treasurer—Joseph Sites, M. D.

Secretary-John Buchanan, M. D.

Censors—J. P. FITLER, M. D.; J. J. FULMER, M. D.; and J. ISAACS, M. D.

The next annual meeting of this society will be held in Philadelphia, Jan. 25, 1867.

Indiana State Eclectic Medical Society.—Officers elected in June, 1865.

President—J. S. Cowdrey, M. D.

Vice-Presidents-W. H. KENDRICK, M. D.; C. P. Long, M. D.

Recording Secretary—E. Huntsinger, M. D.

Corresponding Secretary—C. H. Abbott, M. D.

Treasurer-J. M. Youart, M. D.

Next annual meeting will be held on the first Tuesday and Wednesday, June, 1866.

CONN. ECLECTIC MEDICAL ASSOCIATION.

President-J. J. SPERRY, M. D., Hartford.

Vice-President—D. F. Davis, M. D., Meriden.

Corresponding Secretary—J. W. Johnson, M. D., Hartford.

Recording Secretary—N. D. Hodgkins, M. D., Rocky Hill.

Treasurer—Daniel Kingsbury, M. D., Glastenbury.

Censors—J. J. SPERRY, M. D., Hartford; Ellsworth Burr, M. D., Middletown; J. W. Johnson, M. D., Hartford; J. Coweles, M. D., Plantsville; N. D. Hodgkins, M. D., Rocky Hill.

The annual meeting of this association was held at New Haven, on

the second Tuesday (8th) of May, 1866.

A report of its proceedings will be published in the next Number of this Journal.

SENATORIAL DISTRICT ECLECTIC MEDICAL SOCIETIES AUXILIARY TO THE N. Y. STATE E. M. SOCIETY.

28d SENATORIAL DISTRICT ECLECTIC MEDICAL SOCIETY: -- Officers.

President—R. P. CRANDALL, M. D., Greene.

Vice-President—H. C. GAZLAY, M. D., Cortland.

Recording and Corresponding Secretary—F. L. HARRIS, M. D., Cazenovia.

Trensurer-G. G. LAWRENCE, M. D., Smyrna.

Censors—Drs. E. R. Morgan, H. A. Balles, and S. D. Hanchett. R. P. Crandall, M. D., was appointed orator; and Drs. H. C. Gazlay, G. E. Lawrence, E. B. Morgan, F. L. Harris, essayists for the next annual meeting—which will be held on the last Wednesday in May, at Cortland, N. Y.

82D SENATORIAL DISTRICT ECLECTIC MEDICAL SOCIETY: -- Officers.

President—H. C. TAYLOR, M. D.

Vice-President-A. P. PARSONS, M. D.

Secretary—M. M. Fenner, M. D.

Treasurer—George L. Whitford, M. D.

Orator for next annual meeting—C. C. Johnson, M. D.

Essayists—Drs. C. C. Rugg, J. B. Chose, and D. Louis.

Special Reports on Staphysagria—A. S. Davis, M. D. on Pulsatilla—Geo. D. Whitford, M. D.

" - on Hamamelis Virginica, Drs. H. O. Brooks and M. M. FENNER.

" on a case of interest—N. T. MARBLE, M. D.

The next annual meeting will be held on the third Wednesday (16th) May, at Dunkirk, N. Y.

THE EIGHTEENTH SENATORIAL DISTRICT ECLECTIC MEDICAL SOCIETY OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK, HELD AT WATERTOWN, JAN. 11TH, 1866.

The Meeting was organized by appointing Dr. A. B. Harrington, of Henderson, Chairman, and Dr. J. W. Sargent, of Stone Mills, Secretary, pro tem.

The chairman then appointed Dr. L. Stanton of Copenhagen, Dr. J. H. Cooper, of Watertown, and Dr. U. E. Heaton, of Black River, a committee on Constitution and By-Laws, who submitted a preamble, constitution and by-laws, which were unanimously adopted.

The chairman called for the signing of the constitution, which was

done by all the members of the profession present.

After which the meeting proceeded to the election of the following officers:

President—L. STANTON, M. D.

Vice-President—J. H. COOPER, M. D.

Secretary—J. W. SARGENT, M. D.

Treasurer—A. P. HALE, M. D.

Corresponding Secretary—J. H. Cooper, M. D.

Censors-Drs. L. Stanton, J. H. Cooper, and A. P. Hale.

The Society then appointed as delegates to represent this society at the next annual meeting of the State Eclectic Medical Society, to be held in June next, in the City of New York, C. E. Heaton, M.D., of Black River, J. A. Rega, M. D., of Belleville, and A. P. Hale, of Adams, with powers of substitution in case of their inability to attend said meeting in person.

After listening to an Essay by Dr. Heaton, and discussing various topics pertaining to the welfare of the Society and profession generally, the Society adjourned to meet at the American Hotel, Watertown, on the

2d Tuesday of July next, (1866,) at ten o'clock, A.M.

L. STANTON, President.
J. W. SARGENT, Secretary.

ECLECTIC MEDICAL SOCIETY OF THE CITY OF NEW YORK, AUXILIARY TO THE N. Y. S. ECLECTIC MED. SOCIETY.

Officers:

President—H. M. Sweet, M. D.

Vice-President-ELIJAH WHITNEY, M. D.

Secretary-James A. Henshall, M. D.

Treasurer—George Newby, M. D. Holds its meetings on the 3d Wednesday of each month.

BROOKLYN ACADEMY OF MEDICINE, AUXILIARY TO THE N. Y. S. ECLECTIC MED. SOCIETY.

President—D. E. SMITH, M. D. Vice-President—E. H. SANDS, M. D. Secretary—James Pennoyer, M. D. Treasurer—B. J. Stow, M. D. Holds its meetings on the 2d Thursday of each month.

Several Societies not included in the above are formed in the State, but as yet we have not been favored with a Report.

ORGANIZATION OF THE ECLECTIC MEDICAL SOCIETY OF THE 29TH SENATORIAL DISTRICT OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK.—Pursuant to a call, a large number of the Eclectic Physicians of the 29th Senatorial District assembled at the Spencer House, Medina, for the purpose of organizing a Medical Society, auxiliary to the State Eclectic Medical Society. The following officers were chosen for the year.

President.—R. Thomas, M. D., Johnson's Creek. Vice-President.—R. Andrews, M. D., Bergen. Secretary.—E. C. Abbey, M. D., Lockport. Treasurer.—A.C. Keith, M. D., Charlotte.

Board of Censors.—Drs. E. C. Abbey, Lockport, O. F. Thomas, Ningara, and J. G. Dolley, Albion.

A Constitution and code of By Laws was adopted. Drs. E. C. Abbey, O. F. Thomas, and R. Andrews were appointed to present papers at the next meeting.

Adjourned, to meet at the Harrington House in Albion, on the first

day of June, 1866, at ten o'clock.

CENTRAL INDIANA ECLECTIC MEDICAL SOCIETY.

Officers for the present year.

President—J. W. MILLER, M. D., of Anderson. Secretary—MILTON JAY, M. D., of Marion.

This society will hold its next regular meeting at Wabash, Ind., on the first Tuesday and Wednesday of June, 1866. A large attendance is expected.

Union Eclectic Medical Society of Clermont Co., O.

This society has been in operation several years, its members are true Eclectics, and among the hard-workers in the cause. We have a distant recollection of very pleasant meetings with this society in bygone days. Among its active members we remember the names and persons of Drs. B. Blythe, R. Marsh, J. H. Day, H. M. Ingalls, J. S. Martin, Moon, Ingar and others. They hold semi-annual meetings. The proceedings of the meeting held at Cherry Grove, Hamilton Co., O., on the 28th of April, 1866, will appear in our next Number.

AMERICAN

ECLECTIC MEDICAL REVIEW;

A Monthly Record of Medicine

AND

THE COLLATERAL SCIENCES.

Vol. I.

JULY, 1866.

No. 2.

ORIGINAL COMMUNICATIONS.

Epidemics and Contagion, and their Preventive.

BY PROF. J. MILTON SANDERS, M.D., LL.D.

Non quo sed quomodo.

All is but lip wisdom which wants experience.

SIR PHILIP SIDERY.

Experience joined to common sense To mortals is a providence.

GREEN.

THE word allotropicity is used by chemists to designate a peculiar condition of an element entirely dissimilar to that in which we generally see it. For instance carbon, although an element, or body which cannot be decomposed, presents itself to us in several modified forms. These we recognize in charcoal, in graphite, in black-lead, and crystallized in the diamond. Sulphur and phosphorus present other instances of allotropicity. There are several other elements in which this peculiar condition has been observed, and it is not unphilosophical to presume that every element possesses its allotropic properties, although not yet observed by chemists. But there is no element in which allotropicity is of greater importance than that of oxygen. At every moment of our existence, we are necessitated to breathe oxygen. Its continued inhalation is absolutely necessary to the maintenance of life—then how very important that we should obtain this "vital air" as pure and capacitated for the purpose as possible.

There is no doubt but that the real value of oxygen depends

more upon its ozonized condition than anything else. This allotropic oxygen is termed ozone, and whether the air we breathe contains its normal quantity of ozone is a matter of vital importance to every living being. The very production of ozone exemplifies the fact that all the phenomena in nature, which at first thought may be viewed as mere contingencies, or accidents, are really but links in the great chain of causation. The idle playing of the forked lightning through the air from cloud to cloud, would certainly appear the merest casualty; but these streams of electricity, as eccentric and erratic as they appear, we must view as the instruments of the greatest bounties vouchsafed to mankind by a kind Providence.

It is now ascertanced that each stream of lightning exerts an effect upon the artfor several hundred wards around it, converting a portion of the oxygen into ozone, and thus imparting, as it were, a vi viva,—a living activity, to this element that it did not possess before Ms thus that nature draws from the great magazine around us the wonderfully active ozone, as it is needed for her various purposes. If there be a surplus of this ozone present, certain maladies make their appearance—Influenza being their type. If there be a deficiency, or, as sometimes happens, a total want of it, then the most dreadful evils at once beset us, and a fatal epidemic is the result.

The observations of chemists have established the fact, that during the prevalence of all epidemics and plagues, such as cholera, yellow fever, &c., a deficiency of ozone accompanied the appearance of the disease; this deficiency growing less, so that at the maximum of the plague, the ozone had attained its minimum.

During the prevalence of the cholera in Cincinnati, in the years 1832 and 1849, the air scarcely contained a trace of ozone; and during the dreadful yellow fever at New Orleans, in the year 1853, which decimated that city, the writer of this article repeatedly made examinations, but could not get a trace of ozone in a small quantity of water through which he had passed several hundred

cubic feet of air. In fact, hundreds of experiments made by experienced philosophers in various countries, and during various fatal epidemics, have established the fact, with the invariable precision of a law, that an ozonized condition of the air is the cause of its healthiness, and vice versa. This fact was proved prophylactically in New Orleans during the fatal yellow fever alluded to above. The writer of this article presented a number of citizens of New Orleans with the article now introduced to the public. They generated ozone in their sleeping apartments during the night, and in not a single instance did one of these persons take the disease. Since that time many hundreds of similar experiments have been made, and with the same uniform success. periments were made in cholera cases generally, but succeeded in all other cases where fatal diseases indicated a want of ozone in the air.

Physicians generally agree that the time of contracting a contagion is during the hours of sleep, while the system is passive and in the proper condition for the inception of disease. The uniform success attending the ozonement of the air of sleeping apartments at night, is positive testimony of the truth of this presumption: hence the less necessity of generating ozone during the prevalence of the sun's rays.

Speaking of ozone, Prof. Cooley says:—"It instantly destroys the azotic combinations forming the matter of contagion, &c., and is probably the agent employed by nature for this purpose, since no ozone can be found in the atmosphere of infected districts." It might be necessary to here state that no other substance but ozone possesses the quality of decomposing or destroying the matter of contagion or epidemics. Disinfecting agents and deodorizers may destroy the effluvia of hospitals and apartments of the sick, but they do nothing else. Prof. Cooley speaks of "the utter worthlessness of chemical substances to destroy the invisible sources of disease."

"These disinfecting compounds," the London Medical Times says, "may be useful in mitigating the foul smells which escape from the holds of ships, or from drains and sewers; but they have no direct power of arresting and preventing disease." This is likewise the testimony of the ablest chemists who have investigated this subject; and they have given it as their conviction that ozone, or allotropic oxygen, alone possesses the property of entirely destroying the matter of contagion and epidemics. That it will effectually do it, thousands of well-authenticated instances have proven; while there is not a single instance of failure (if ozone was really generated) to controvert this cheering fact.

From these considerations it appears that there is really but one prophylactic against pandemic diseases. This is ozone, which alone possesses, through its intense chemical activity, the property of decomposing the matter of all zymotic maladies; while all other substances, such as disinfectants, deodorizers, &c., only abstract by absorption the odor of the sick-room, but do not really remove the matter of the contagion.

It is necessary, therefore, that every physician should supply himself with the very valuable salt from which is generated the ozone. It is the Permanganate of Potassa. Take binoxide of manganese 8 parts, chlorate of potassa 7 parts; pulverize, mix, and add hydrate of potassa 10 parts, dissolved in a little water. Evaporate to dryness, and expose the residue (pulverized) to a low red heat in a platinum crucible for a short time. Dissolve the calcined mass in a large quantity of water; decoct the clear solution, evaporate till crystals appear upon the surface, and set aside to cool and crystallize. To obtain the ozone mix two parts by weight of the permanganate of potassa with three parts by weight of sulphuric acid. A mixture of one part of the permanganate with one of the acid is so powerful as to produce combustion and explosion if brought into contact with essential oils. As the action of the sulphuric acid is so energetic, and eliminates the ozone so rapidly, it would be well to dilute the permanganate, so that the action would be more gentle and prolonged. This is best done by adding an equal quantity of the peroxide of manganese.

There are two test papers for ascertaining the presence of ozone in the air. They are prepared as follows: Take pure white starch one ounce; iodide of potassium three drachms; mix, and add gradually of boiling water six ounces. The paper (unsized) is saturated in this solution, and then dried out of contact of the air. The other test paper is prepared by saturating unsized paper with a strong solution of the sulphate of manganese. Ozone turns the former paper blue, and the latter black. These papers, before being hung up for the purpose of testing the air for ozone should be dampened.

As the permanganate is difficult of preparation, we would mention that it can be procured of "The Providence Chemical Manufacturing Co." at a comparatively low cost. The test paper will be furnished to those physicians who order the salt.

PROVIDENCE, R. I., May, 1866.

Since writing the above, we have noticed, in the New York Eclectic Medical Review, a summary of a prize essay by Dr. Thos. H. Baker, in which he asserts that "for rapid deodorization and disinfection, chlorine is the most effective agent known." Lest this assertion may appear to militate against our statement that ozone is really the only agent for the total destruction of the matter of contagions, etc., we would state that Dr. Baker has really, although perhaps not suspected by himself, substantiated our statement. "The bleaching properties attributed to chlorine are owing really to the action of nascent oxygen," says an eminent chemist. Now in our opinion this nascent oxygen is really what we designate ozone, the latter being oxygen in an intense chemical state.

In a former article we have enunciated the doctrine, or, we may say, the fact, that the atoms of elementary bodies exist, not massed together by the attraction of aggregation, but by chemical attraction. That is, that the atoms of elementary substances exist in pairs, one being positive, the other negative. If these homogeneous atoms are separated,

each atom becomes intensely active, for it has nothing but its attractive force to obey, the antagonizing force of the affinity of their own electric states. Ozone, in our opinion, is nothing else than these atoms separated. Chlorine, by some mysterious action, induces the separation of these atoms, by, perhaps, forming some sort of a combination with the positive oxygen atoms, and thus releasing the negative atoms. This then exerts its intense chemical energy, and quickly decomposes the matter of the contagion, which chlorine, by its feeble affinity for the hydrogen of the matter, could not effect. Hence we contend that ozone, or allotropic oxygen, as it is often termed, is the sole agent in decomposing the matter of contagion, &c., and that chlorine only performs a secondary office.

Prof. Edwin Freeman, in his able paper on cholera, in the June No. of the Eclectic Medical Review, says: "During the height of the cholera, when the air is thoroughly poisoned, birds and beasts are warned of its influence in the atmosphere, and retire from their usual haunts to the inmost recesses of the forest." He also mentions that "carrion crows ceased to make their appearance, although there were plenty of dead cattle in the fields," and likewise that "cabbages, radishes, and other vegetables, after sprouting up a few inches from the soil, would suddenly be seized with a blight, and in a few days they would wilt and die." The disappearance of animals from the infected atmosphere, does not proceed from their detection of the poisonous matter therein, but from that of the real cause of the disease, a want of a proper ozonement of the air. This is also the reason why vegetables did not grow. They needed the stimulus of the active oxygen of the air, the ozone, which, through some mysterious cause, had fallen below its normal quantity. In a future paper we shall adduce some proofs to substantiate our proposition, that all contagious and epidemic diseases are due solely to the minimum quantity of ozone existing in the air.

What is Cholera Infantum? What to be observed, and how to treat it?

BY ROBERT S. NEWTON, M.D.,

Professor of Surgery in the Eclectic Medical College of N. Y. City.

That condition of the mucous membrane of the intestines which constitutes feculent and catarrhal diarrhoa, with a derangement of the liver and an erythematic inflammation of the mucous lining of the stomach, passing into a state of congestion, is cholera infantum.

The exciting causes correspond with this synthesis—improper food and atmospheric exposures of the body, by the use of insufficient clothing; and the evacuations from the bowels and the condition of the stomach still farther sustain the above.

The natural fæces are frequently greatly retained, while at other times they are thin and serous, or watery, sometimes more consistent and consisting principally of mucus, occasionally containing some blood. The color is variable, being green, yellow, white, or brown, inodorous or very offensive, but generally having a sourish smell. Sometimes the alvine irritability is such that the ingesta pass through the intestines undigested.

Although the intestinal actions, in the beginning, may only indicate a diarrhoa, yet the stomach is generally affected from the first, and when the attack is violent, the vomiting and purging are attended with such spasmodic actions as to resemble the cholera morbus of adult life.

The fever, which soon follows the first symptoms, is irregularly remittent, having its highest exacerbations in the evening. The brain is greatly involved, which is manifested by the delirium, and even phrensy which attend it. The eyes, by their fierce or languid expression when awake, and half-closed condition when asleep, are indicative of the same.

The pulse is generally small, quick, and feeble, or irritated and corded, but rarely full or strong. The thirst is intense and cold water is urgently demanded, and as soon as it is swallowed it is rejected. There is an unequal distribution of temperature—the extremities are cold, and the body is very hot.

Emaciation progresses with great rapidity—the complexion becomes pallid, the flesh flabby, and such is the demand of the respiratory function, that the fat becomes entirely absorbed; livid spots appear, which finally pass into ulcerations, the eyes and checks become sunken, the lips shrivelled, the integuments corrugated, except on the forehead. Such is the character of the disease that at this stage it is barely possible for the patient to recover.

In many instances, the vomiting, in connection with the above symptoms, continues to the close of life; but more generally it ceases, leaving a diarrhea to wear out the patient. In still more advanced stages of the disease, several other fearful symptoms are generated—the abdomen becomes tumid or sunken; the mouth becomes moist and aphthous; petechiæ, and a small, vesicular eruption appear on the breast; the skin becomes of a dull and dirty hue, and the conjunctiva appears bloodshot. The circulation becomes exceedingly languid, the patient very restless and plaintively moaning; coma comes on and terminates the suffering, but not always without symptoms of hydrocephalus.

The vesicular eruption on the breast, the discharge of living worms, and the thrusting of the fingers into the back part of the mouth, as though desirous of withdrawing something, are regarded as invariably fatal symptoms; but the tenacity with which the infantile system clings to life, in this form of disease, most generally, is truly remarkable: the struggle seems to be one of time, and if the physician can stay, even to some extent, the progress of the disease, to a more advanced season, the patient may recover, however improbable it might appear from the exceedingly worn-out condition of the system. In duration, the disease varies from a few hours to weeks, and from weeks to months.

Causes.—It is maintained by many that the process of dentition, the existence of worms, and exposure to cold, have much to do in producing it. But all of these causes operate upon children in the second dentition, and yet they do not have this disease. Again, all these causes act upon children under two years of age, during the cold months, as well as

the warm ones, and yet they are not assailed by it. The children of other countries, and in the same latitude, are operated upon as much by the same causes as are the children of this country, and yet they do not have the disease.

The disease is measurably confined to our middle and southern States, and these States produce a greater amount of evaporation than any other district, of the same magnitude, in the world. It prevails more in our cities than in the country, while the disease of adults, during the same season, prevails much more in the country.

It is well understood, that where there is the greatest amount of evaporation there is the greatest reduction of temperature and evolution of electricity. The predisposing cause or causes lie concealed in the preceding facts, for all children, during the first two years of their existence, because of the peculiar condition of their systems at this age, being susceptible to the influence, for a time longer or shorter, a predisposition to it will be produced, when an exposure to cold, too much drink, or an improper article of food may excite the predisposition into action, and cholera infantum is the result.

Although we have not discovered the *entity* that causes or predisposes to the disease, and although we cannot remove it, by the removal of the child, even fifty or a hundred yards, we may place it in a condition very nearly the opposite of the one in which it contracted the disease, and this can, most generally, be done.

Inasmuch as we are entitled to the privilege of indulging in such inferences, from the facts we have, we will attempt, as suggestions may furnish, a nearer approximation to the predisposing cause of the disease.

The great amount of electricity evolved in ventilated and evaporating situations may be assumed as the cause of the various forms of summer disease in adults; for it is true, that there is not a morass or swamp in our country, about which a man may not live and have good health, provided he will live in the woods, or even sleep in them. About the country farms there is more evaporation than in our cities,

and he is more liable to sickness in the former than in the latter.

Now, with regard to children, it may be assumed that their cutaneous function is rendered imperfect by the surrounding humidity that could not injuriously contend with the force of an adult skin. In the next place, it may be safely assumed that this humid state of the atmosphere impedes, to an equal extent, the pulmonary function, preventing a thorough elimination of the carbon of the venous blood—and preventing such an absorption of oxygen as may be essential to the elimination of the metamorphosed tissues. If these two functions shall be embarrassed, an excess of duty will be imposed upon the liver and kidneys and cause them to fail. If we are justified in the preceding conclusions, have we not found a sufficient cause for the disease?

Considering the soft, serous, immature, and developing condition of infancy, may not its organism require that electrical atmosphere which evaporation produces in freely ventilated situations? To us, this seems to be exceedingly probable.

It appears improbable that we shall ever be able to understand the modus operandi of any of the occult causes in creating predispositions to disease; but it is possible, by a careful observation and comparison of facts, to obtain a knowledge of the conditions under which it is produced. When we shall have acquired this knowledge, although we shall be no more able to change or modify them, we will be able to deport ourselves wisely with reference to them.

Treatment.— As far as our observations and inquiries have extended, the treatment which we herein lay down has been almost uniformly successful—the failures being mere exceptions to the general rule.

One of the agents upon which we principally depend for the removal of infantile summer complaint, is the Syrup of Rhei and Potassa,* which removes nausea and vomiting,

^{* &}quot;SYRUPUS RHEI ET POTASSE. Syrup of Rhubarb and Potassa. Neutralizing Cordial.

[&]quot;Take of best India rhubarb, in coarse powder, and bicarbonate of potassa, each one pound; cinnamon, golden seal, each, half a pound; macerate for two

when present, acts mildly upon the stomach and bowels, and restores the evacuations to their healthy condition.

When febrile symptoms are present, the whole surface of the body and limbs should be sponged two or three times daily with a weak alkaline solution rendered stimulant by the addition of a small quantity of spirits; and in obstinate cases, attended with high fever, give the patient small doses of the Concentrated Tinctures of Gelsemin and Veratrum, at such intervals as will give the medicines time to produce a slow but marked effect. In these cases the frequency of the heart's action is not so much the result of active inflammation as it is of a general irritability of the whole nervous system, although Veratrum will, in large doses, produce vomiting, it will, when given in small doses, combined with the Gelsemin as above directed, allay the spasmodic condition of the stomach which keeps up the nausea and constant tendency to vomit, and allay that peculiar irritable condition of the heart's action, which is too often taken for inflammation. As soon as these conditions are obtained the nausea and vomiting subside, the circulation and nervous action is equalized, and the child becomes tranquil and in every respect improved.

Great care should be observed in the use of these remedies in treating infantile diseases.

When the discharges from the bowels are frequent, and attended with pain, inject cold starch water, immediately after each evacuation, to be retained in the rectum as long as possible. This injection has a decided influence in moderating the inflammatory tendency as well as relieving pain.

Where vomiting is obstinate and frequent, a mustard poultice, applied over the epigastric region, will be found useful, in connection with the internal use of the above; and if the patient, at any time during the disease, becomes prostrated, stimulants must be administered, as diluted brandy, wine-whey, or aromatic spirits of ammonia.

days in best fourth proof brandy, two gallons; then express the tincture with strong pressure, and add to it oil of peppermint two fluidrachms, previously dissolved in a little alcohol." (To this we add four ounces of the tincture of dioscorein.)

Cooling mucilaginous drinks should be frequently given when irritability of stomach, nausea, or vomiting are present.

After the inflammatory or febrile form of disease has been removed, should diarrhæa remain, astringents, with tonics, must be given, as

B. Hydrastin,
Quiniæ Sulph., aa grs. viij.
Geranin, grs. xvj.
Pulv. Sacch. Alb., grs. xx.

Mix and triturate well, then divide into sixteen powders, of which one must be given every hour or two, according to the urgency of the case, and continued until excessive evacuations have ceased.

Occasionally, very obstinate cases of cholera infantum occur, in which the employment of Leptandrin to overcome biliary derangement, in conjunction with the other means already recommended, will exert a highly beneficial influence.

The child's clothing should be changed often, the diet should be light, such as boiled milk, with powdered cinnamon added, or milk thickened with wheat or rice flour; and, if possible, it should be removed from the city to the country, or at all events, some distance from its home; and, under all circumstances, it should not be confined within a close room, but should be exposed as much as possible to the air, but not to the immediate influence of the sun's action.

One of the most important things to be observed on the part of the parent or nurse is, under no circumstance to allow the child to be rocked in either cradle or chair, or to be tossed or moved around in an upright condition; it should, when at rest or when being carried around in the house or in the open air, be kept in the recumbent position. The disregard of these regulations has caused the death of thousands of children laboring under cholera infantum. It is just as impossible to cure this disease, when these rules are disregarded, as to cure Asiatic cholera by keeping the patient in an upright position.

A Contribution to the History of Strangulated Femoral Hernia.

BY J. S. PRETTYMAN, M.D.

Tuesday, Jan. 9 (p. m.), 1866, was summoned to visit a lady. She was a married woman, aged 45, nervous temperament, medium height, and thin; had borne six children, the youngest then five years old. Found her complaining of severe pain at the upper part of abdomen, accompanied with nausea, meteorism, and violent vomiting. Had been in this condition for seventy-two hours. Immediately suspected a strangulated hernia, and insisted upon an examination. admitted that a small swelling existed in the left groin, but almost violently disputed that it could be what I suggested, because she had had it at times for fourteen years (since the birth of her second child), and had always found it to subside after a few days. Other physicians had known of it, she said (I had but recently become the family physician), and never suspected it to be anything of consequence. objections and statements only confirming the diagnosis, I so urgently insisted upon the examination that she finally yielded. Found it to be a crural hernia, about the size of a black walnut divested of its hull, exceedingly hard, inelastic and It had come upon her during menstruation, as it always previously had, and caused an immediate suspension of that function. In consequence of this fact she had become accustomed to attribute the swelling in the groin to the obstructed function, instead of vice versa. Reasoning from her stand-point upon the facts, and also influenced by her experience in similar attacks, she had so firmly concluded that the tumor would soon subside, that she neglected to solicit professional assistance: and, even after I had so distinctly explained to her and her husband, the nature and probable consequences of the accident, she seemed to think I must be mistaken in my views: and this probably more than anything else influenced her in a peremptory refusal to submit to any operation with the knife, let the consequences be what they might.

Under the circumstances it appeared to be of little use to

interfere, except with the knife; but as this was out of the question, by the voluntary act of the patient, in which she was sustained by her husband; and more especially as the hernial tumor was so surrounded with congestion and inflammation extending to the integument, that I very much feared the knife, if used, would only open to a gangrenous intestine, I concluded to make moderate efforts at reduction, and if these failed, which I was confident of, to trust the case to nature until a clear indication offered for professional interference.

Pulse, 95 and feeble; tongue, heavily loaded, foul and slimy, with red tip and edges. I immediately administered

B. Ext. Lob. Sem. grs. iij., Morphiæ Sulph. gr. 1.

M. f. in pill.

This produced great relief from pain, with a good deal of relaxation of the muscular tissue, and increased the nausea to a distressing degree, but no vomiting followed it for two At this period she desired me to desist from the hours. taxis, which I had been carefully applying at intervals, as it gave her so much pain. Copious vomiting followed almost immediately, accompanied with violent retching and strained efforts, in the midst of which she called for the pot de chambre, which was soon half filled with a feculent, colliquative, cholera-morbus-like stool. This was soon followed with another of like character, after which she expressed herself as . quite relieved, though no change in the tumor could be dis-The vomiting, meteorism, and pain at epigastrium ceased from this time, though the tumor continued as large, hard, and sensitive as before. Left her for the night, with cold to the seat of stricture, and sol. morphia, if required, to relieve pain.

Wednesday, 10th.—No further symptoms of strangulation; slept most of the night; tongue and pulse as yesterday; hernial tumor larger, and integumentary inflammation increased; had not used the morphia: suspect and hope that the relaxation and violent vomiting of yesterday has relieved the intestinal stricture. The copious dejections yesterday, with

the subsidence of the symptoms of strangulation, seem to warrant this conclusion, though the tumor is unchanged. Trust now, that only an epiplocele remains to suppurate and slough off. Apply cataplasm lini.

Thursday, 11th.—No further symptoms of strangulation, except a slight return of epigastric pain, which was relieved with one dose (½ gr.) of the sul. morphia. Hernial swelling larger, and intumescence extending all along the hernial track from above the origin of Poupart's ligament to the pubic symphysis. No more unfavorable symptoms except the pain and tenderness attending the local inflammation. Some cephalalgia and slight fever; no food taken since attacked; treatment continued.

Sunday 14th.—Gave castor oil, which operated moderately. Swelling increased and softening over tumor. The peculiar crepitus of gangrene plainly perceptible on pressure with the fingers.

Monday, 15th.—Pulse, 85; coat on tongue softening; less pyrexia; tumor much softened and less painful.

Tuesday, 16th.—Integument ruptured, with a copious flow of fetid serum, gangrenous tissue, pus and fæcal matter (!), the stench from which was intolerable. Washed and dressed the lesion with the poultice, carefully removing all the filth and gangrenous matter in reach. The first rush of discharge was so copious and filthy that patient had had it removed before my arrival, and I did not inspect it. I could discover nothing resembling intestinal tissue, but only a copious flow of pus and fæcal matter, in a semi-fluid state, tinged yellow with bile. What I had hoped to be only an epiplocele, was now demonstrated to be a genuine strangulated, intestinal How then are we to account for the subsiding of the symptoms of strangulation, and the copious stools, after the operation of the lobelia? Also, how was it that the ol. ricini, on Sunday, 14th, was followed by a dejection? Were these stools only from that portion of the intestines below the seat of stricture? The light color would indicate that such was the fact. But why did all symptoms of strangulation cease from that time? This seems to me unaccountable. Could it have been that a partial passage was produced through the impacted and gangrenous intestine?

Wednesday, 17th.—Discharge copious; saturating large compresses and running off through all the dressings and bandages, and extremely fetid. The compresses next the lesion saturated with semi-fluid fæcal matter. Washed and cleansed the wound thoroughly; applied thick folds of patent lint, and large muslin compresses, secured by turns of the roller around the abdomen, and by figure 8 turns over the groin and around the hip. Pulse, feeble and slow; tongue, cleaning. No fever, and some desire for food. Ordered nutritious diet and milk punch.

Thursday, 18th.—Bowels moved via natura; stool very pale but consistent and copious; wound reaching whole length of groin. Patient suffered to-day from meteorism and violent action of intestines, with considerable nausea and occasional slight vomiting. Feared occlusion of intestinal passage. She had been constantly confined to the horizontal position, with dorsal decubitus, to prevent any protrusion of abdominal visceræ from the wound. Searched carefully for this accident, but could detect none of it. Dressed carefully, as usual, and gave ½ gr. Morphia, under which these symptoms gradually ceased.

Friday, 19th.—Symptoms favorable; no fever; tongue almost clean, moist, and appetite returning; meteorism ceased; moved bowels with injection; stool consistent and clay-colored; broth and milk porridge added to diet.

21st.—To-day ventured to give a tablespoonful of ol. ricini, which moved bowels through the wound, and slightly also via naturæ.

23th.—To day left off poultice, and dressed the wound with lint covered with simple cerate and compresses, after applying the tr. myrrh. comp.—Patient gains strength day by day, and there is a good prospect of recovery, with artificial anus.

25th.—Dressings continued; symptoms same; lesion beginning to fill in at edges clean and healthy; fæcal discharge

the same. Again gave oil, which produced discharge from groin and anus as before.

From this time onward the wound gradually healed, the fæcal discharge grew less and less from the artificial passage, and more and more free from the natural, until the middle of March when the wound had closed up, except a small space as large as a three-cent piece. Over this I placed a compress and applied a truss, and allowed her to sit up and, as soon as able, to move about the room. Oil was frequently administered during the convalescence, always twice a week, if the bowels were not moved without it. Her strength gradually increased, and by the first of April the natural route had become gradually restored, and the wound in groin entirely healed. She continues to wear the truss, and her health is now fully established.

Since the above, I was called to see a boy, 16 years old, suffering from strangulated inguinal hernia. I placed him upon a bed on the floor, raised his legs into a chair, and placed pillows under his hips; applied cold compress to the seat of stricture; administered the ext. lob. sem., in gradually increased doses, until relaxation took place, and when vomiting followed, the stricture yielded and the intestine slipped back to its place.

MILFORD, DEL., June 5th, 1866.

On the Successful Treatment for Common Tape-worm.

BY O. E. NEWTON, M. D.

In the month of July last a lady of this city came under my charge who had been treated by a number of physicians for the removal of a tape-worm without success. Having failed to accomplish the object by the means usually employed in such cases, my attention was directed to the use of powdered kamela, and male fern (the ethereal oil), by the following article from Brait. Ret., July No., 1865:

I was called during the night to see Ed. G., a butcher, who was seized with an epileptic convulsion. I learned from his wife that he had often such convulsions, and that she thought they depended on an injury he had received to his head two years before. I prescribed the following:—

B. Chloric. eth., 3 ss.; tr. hyoscyam., 3 iii.; spt. mindereri, 3 iii.; aq. camph. ad 3 vi. M. Take 3 j. every four hours. Sinapisms to the nape of the neck, and perfect quiet.

He soon recovered, and was at his duties next day. I saw him in the forenoon, and on cross-examination found that he suffered from tapeworm. I then, after the usual preliminary treatment, prescribed 3 ii. of ext. eth. filic. mar. as a dose, to be followed by an ounce of castor oil. Next day thirty-five feet of worm were brought to me: but I still could not find the head, though it was apparent that nearly the whole worm came away, as the narrowest part of the worm produced was about the breadth of three plies of No. 6 cotton thread.

On tonic treatment E. G. remained well for four months.

Patient, however, soon presented himself, as bad as before. I now resolved to give him kamela, which I had heard and read of as a first-rate anthelmintic. After preliminary treatment, and a good active purgative, I prescribed—

R. Kamelæ, 3 iss.; mucilag., 3i.; syrupi, q. s.; aq., ad 3iii. M. Half to be taken at bedtime, and half to be taken at 2 A. M.

The same result followed as with the male fern.

Patient got very well on tonics; but towards the close of 1862 he again

presented himself, suffering all the symptoms as before indicated.

Finding that the male fern alone failed, both in large single, double, and often repeated doses (for I prescribed kamela in repeated doses to another patient in the interval), I resolved to try a combination; I therefore prescribed the following (to be taken after the usual preliminary treatment):—

R. Ext. eth. filic. maris, 3 iss.; pulveris kamelæ, 3 ii.; mucilag. et syrup., -q. s., aquæ cinnamom. ad Ziii. M. Half to be taken at bedtime, and half at 2 A. M.

Next day patient brought the whole worm, about twenty-six feet in length.

This patient, in February, 1865, is quite well, having had no return of the worm.

I have since treated ten cases with the last prescription, viz., a mixture of kamela and male fern, with complete success, on one trial; no

second dose being required.

In conclusion, I can most heartily recommend the use of kamela and male fern combined, as pretty certain in result. It would be bad logic to expect an universal and sure result from so few cases; but the result of my experience in the above cases, and the successful issue, after so many failures, leads me to conclude that the troublesome and disagreeable tænia can be very surely divorced from a connection that he has no right to have.

I may also remark that none of the patients had difficulty in retaining the medicine, though slight nausea sometimes followed its administration. Nor have any evil results followed from the large doses which were prescribed—purgation was the usual result, followed, sometimes during the act, at others after evacuation of the bowels, by the expulsion of the dead tænia. In none of the cases did the worm come away alive when male fern and kamela were given in combination; but in some of the failures before recorded, parts of the worm came out alive, and lived for some time after.

In none of the cases could more than one worm be detected. There are many cases on record in which two, or more, have been found.

I have prescribed as much as 3 iii. of eth. ext. of male fern at one dose, without success, further than palliation for a term of three or four months. In no case can we be certain of cure, unless the head of the worm be found. If it cannot (as it may escape notice in the evacuations), and a period of at least six months has elapsed after evacuation of the worm, without return of the symptoms, then the cure may be considered complete.—Glasgow Medical Journal, April, 1865, p. 52.

My pharmaceutist made up the prescription according to the above formula. I ordered, as above indicated, half to be taken at bed-time, and half to be taken at 2 A.M. Thirty hours elapsed, after using the second dose, without any effect. That evening, before bed-time, I ordered one-half the quantity to be again administered. In the morning following the whole worm, measuring over twenty feet in length, was expelled. Since which time there has been no return.

The result was quite different from that of previous attempts made for the removal of this worm. Though by the use of turpentine, pumpkin seeds, and other standard remedies there would be quite a proportion of the worm passed, yet in a few days small pieces would break off and pass with the fæces again.

From the repeated failures with all other means compared with the promptness with which this prescription removed the worm, I feel that I cannot too strongly recommend its repetition in similar cases.

CINCINNATI, O.

PERISCOPE.

Treatment of Hereditary Syphilis without Mercury.

In a paper by Mr. R. W. Dunn, read before the Royal Medical and Chirurgical Society (Nov. 14, 1865), the author first narrated the particulars of some cases of hereditary syphilis which had come under his observation at the Farring-

don Dispensary, and which he had successfully treated with chlorate of potash, without using mercury in any form what-Out of fifty cases which he had thus treated, he had met with only one case of relapse, which readily yielded to a repetition of the same treatment; and three deaths, one child dying of convulsions, and the other two being in a dying state when first seen by him. The author then entered upon the general treatment of syphilis, briefly alluding to, and giving the names of those who have advocated the non-mercurial treatment. On the authority of the British and Foreign Medico-Chirurgical Review, he stated that from 1800 to 1835 about 80,000 cases of syphilis had been treated without mer-He rejoiced in the belief that non-mercurial treatment was gaining ground amongst the profession; and owing to having been so often disappointed himself in the results of specific treatment, he had now abandoned completely the use of mercury in any form in the general treatment of syphilis. In the treatment of hereditary syphilis, he considered that we must be guided by the same general rules which we observe in treating other diseases. All remedies of a depressing or lowering character ought to be avoided; and, on the other hand, tonics, cod-liver oil, strict diet, and extreme cleanliness, were essential to successful treatment. He bore evidence to the marvellous effects upon children of chlorate of potash in combination with hydrochloric acid in this disease. Where the skin was very irritable, he recommended a bran bath, the bowels to be carefully regulated, and the child to be out in the pure air as much as possible. Sixty-three days was the longest period any child had been under his treatment, and eighteen days the shortest, the average time being about thirty days.

Mr. Henry Lee said that, if the experience of other practitioners confirmed the results mentioned by Mr. Dunn, it would leave nothing to be desired with regard to the treatment of syphilis. Unfortunately, however, such was not the case. Out of the number of instances that Mr. Dunn had referred to, a relapse was recorded in one case only; and the death-rate of infantile syphilis was as low as 6 per cent. These

results proved too much. They were altogether at variance with the experience of those who treated this disease either with or without mercury. Thus, for instance, we are informed in Professor Boeck's published work that out of forty-two children treated by him without mercury, twenty-two died; and these cases were independent of those who died without undergoing the process of treatment recommended by Dr. Boeck. Some rational explanation must, therefore, be sought for the great difference observed in Mr. Dunn's cases, and where the history of the patients could be traced for a longer period; and this he (Mr. Lee) believed would be found in the fact that, in dispensary practice, when mothers found their children not progressing satisfactorily, they took them elsewhere, and in cases of relapse after treatment, they would naturally feel inclined to try some other remedy. If the cases thus abstracted from observation were recorded as cures, it would be the means of affording very favorable statistical returns under any mode of treatment. With regard to the treatment of syphilis generally, it constantly happened to him (Mr. Lee) to have patients who presented themselves after four or five years of non-mercurial treatment still uncured, and regretting that they had lost so much time in fruitless attempts to obtain relief; and he also not unfrequently saw some very severe secondary symptoms after the non-mercurial plan of treatment. Indeed, some of the worst cases of secondary sloughing of the throat and of disease of the bones which he had seen occurred amongst those in which no mercury had been used. He, therefore, thought that, although mercury might be injudiciously given and might then produce injurious effects, the ill-consequences attributed to it in reality very often, indeed, depended upon other causes. We had now the means of administering this remedy without making any serious demand upon the constitutional powers; and when thus administered, with proper care, it was a most valuable remedy, and certainly not followed by the symptoms which had been attributed to it. The author of the paper had alluded to the effect of the mother's milk upon a child. Now he (Mr. Lee) did not believe that any poisonous influence could be con-

veyed in this way. The health of the mother might be impaired by syphilis, and the milk would become poor in consequence, and the child might be ill-nourished; but this was quite a different thing from the transmission of the syphilitic poison by the milk. It was a law with regard to syphilis that a person having that disease could with great difficulty, under any circumstances, be again infected. The child of a syphilitic mother would, in all probability, be itself syphilitic, and it would then be very difficult to conceive that any fresh poison could be conveyed to it. But we had proof that even a healthy child would not be affected in this way. The following case had come under his (Mr. Lec's) observation in St. George's Hospital. The patient was admitted during the summer of last year. She had had two healthy children, the youngest eight months old. She and her husband had been healthy. After her last confinement she took another child to nurse. This child proved to be syphilitic, and died three weeks before the patient's admission into the hospital. Shortly after taking this child to nurse, she noticed a sore on the right nipple, which became very hard all round. Six weeks before her admission, this patient had an eruption, presenting all the characters of syphilis, over the body, and her throat became ulcerated. During these six, weeks she continued to suckle her own child, as she had previously done. She, however, always kept her own child to the left breast, and the other child to the right one. Her child remained ·perfectly well during the time she continued in the hospital, and was known to have been so in the November following. This patient had recently been confined again, and was attended from St. George's hospital; and he (Mr. Lee) had reason to believe that the child which she suckled in the summer of 1864 remained healthy at the present time.

Dr. Drysdale said he was sorry that the respected Professor Boeck was absent, for he would doubtless have been able to have answered Mr. Lee's question. In his absence, he (Dr. Drysdale) would endeavor to give an answer. It must be remembered that the cases mentioned by the Professor in his works included many infants of but a day or

two old. Now, in his own experience, such cases were almost uniformly fatal; children who were much affected by this complaint at birth, were often too feeble to breathe. The cases brought forward by Mr. Dunn were not in this category. Infants were not brought to the hospital by their mothers until they were three or four weeks old, and all the cases cited by Mr. Dunn were of that age. It was a great, and he thought, a rather prevalent error, to imagine that all syphilitic children were emaciated and cachectic; many of them were plump and well nourished, and the "old man" look was rather the exception than the rule. then, nothing surprising in Mr. Dunn's success, with the care he had taken with the cases, many of which he (Dr. Drysdale) had seen. The wonder was that these cases should so long have been considered to require a dangerous drug like mercury. He himself, he believed, had been the first to publish a case of infantile syphilis treated without mercury. These facts completed the chain of evidence against mercury in syphilis, since it had been shown by experience of the most extensive kind that the disease in adults was always injured by the drug, instead of being alleviated. Bone disease, if it occurred without mercury, was very rare, since Syme, Weedon Cooke, and Spencer Wells had not seen cases: In fact, the empirical school of treatment of disease was losing its hold on many of the profession, and a six months' course of mercury to cure disease depending on a blood poison would soon be considered an absurdity. Parents much mercurialized were liable to have syphilitic children far more than others.—Med. Times and Gaz., Dec. 2, 1865.

On Excision of the Tongue. -- By James Syme, Esq., Surgeon in Ordinary to the Queen in Scotland, Professor of Clinical Surgery in the University of Edinburgh.

[[]Mr. Syme had on previous occasions removed the tongue by operation; both cases, however, proving fatal, he determined not again to repeat the operation. In the early part

of November last, however, he was consulted by a gentleman, aged fifty-two, on account of a painful affection of the tongue, which rendered deglutition impossible, and death seemed pending from starvation. He determined to remove the tongue, as the patient urgently desired it.]

Being thus, as it were, compelled to make another trial of excision, I carefully considered all the circumstances concerned that might tend to interfere with its successful performance. Of these the one which most prominently presented itself was the prevention of voluntary deglutition, that must result from depriving the os hyoides of the power by which it is drawn forward. In the common cases of cutthroat, where a large transverse wound is made into the pharynx, although the suicide rarely accomplishes his object in the first instance, he still more rarely escapes the fatal effect of pulmonary inflammation induced by irritation propagated from the larynx; and I did not forget that both the patients on whom I had performed the operation in question, died from purulent effusion into the lungs. Instead, therefore, of cutting through all the muscles of the os hyoides, as had been done in former cases, I resolved to retain the mylohyoidei and genio-hyoidei entire, and divided merely the attachment of the genio-hyoglossi. I also thought it would be better to perform the operation without chloroform, since the patient, instead of lying horizontally, might thus be seated on a chair, so as to let the blood run out of his mouth, and not pass backwards into the pharynx.

The operation was performed on the 29th Nov., 1864, with the assistance of Mr. Annandale, Dr. Sewell, and Mr. Cheyne, to the first of whom I am especially indebted for his able cooperation. Having extracted one of the front incisors, I cut through the middle of the lip and continued the incision down to the os hyoides, then sawed through the jaw in the same line, and, insinuating my finger under the tongue as a guide to the knife, divided the mucous lining of the mouth, together with the attachment of the genio-hyoglossi. While the two halves of the bone were held apart I dissected backwards and cut through the hyoglossi along with the mucous

membrane covering them, so as to allow the tongue to be pulled forward and bring into view the situation of the lingual arteries, which were cut and tied, first on one side, and then on the other. The process might now have been at once completed, had I not feared that the epiglottis might be implicated in the disease, which extended beyond the reach of my finger, and thus suffer injury from the knife, if used without a guide. I, therefore, cut away about twothirds of the tongue, and then, being able to reach the os hyoides with my finger, retained it there, while the remaining attachments were divided by the knife in my other hand close to the bone. Some small arterial branches having been tied, the edges of the wound were brought together and retained by silver sutures, except at the lowest part, where the ligatures were allowed to maintain a drain for the discharge of fluids from the cavity.

Next day I visited the patient, and finding him in all respects comfortable, inquired if he could swallow. In reply he pointed to a drinking-cup containing milk, and intimated that he wished it to be filled; then placing the spout between his lips, while his head was bent backwards, he drank the whole without any cough or sputtering. Having seen this, I felt assured that the result would be satisfactory, and was not disappointed, as everything went on well afterwards. The only inconvenience experienced was from the edges of the jaw being occasionally displaced; but this was easily remedied by an ingenious contrivance of Mr. Wilson, the dentist, who, finding that a silver-cap inclosing the teeth was not sufficient for the purpose, fashioned a shield of guttapercha, embracing the chin on each side, and secured to the metal plate by a wire.

Under an ample supply of nourishment by milk, soup, and soft solid food, there was a rapid return of strength, so that an improvement in this respect was almost daily observable, and before the end of three weeks the patient declared that he had never felt better in his life. He returned to Manchester on the 23d of January.

Excision of the tongue has thus afforded complete relief in

a case of the most formidable and distressing disease. How far the relief thus obtained may prove permanent, and how far it may admit of being extended to cases of similar kinds, are questions that can be determined only by experience. But the frequency of malignant growth affecting the tongue in an otherwise sound state of the system, urgently requires the truth to be ascertained in regard to the value of a remedial measure; and if the operation is now, as I trust it has been, freed from the chief danger attending its performance, facts sufficient for the purpose will probably, ere long, be accumulated.—Lancet, Feb. 4, 1865, p. 115.

Mr. Anandale on the 10th Sept., 1865 made the following report of the case:—The lips and jaw-bone, where divided, were soundly united without any deformity. The opening between the mouth and pharynx was much diminished in size and irregular in shape from contraction of the fauces and soft palate, which were drawn downwards and forwards more to the right than the left side, from the mucous membrane at that part having participated in the disease and been removed along with the tongue. Mr. Wsays that he can swallow as well as ever, provided that the food is either finely divided or fluid. He is also able to masticate solid substances, although difficulty is sometimes experienced from their getting into awkward parts of the In ordinary speech his words are wonderfully clear and distinct, and he can sing without any difficulty. vowels and words composed of them are articulated perfectly, and also the following consonants: B, C, F, H, K, L, M, N, P, Q, R, V, W. D is pronounced "dthe," J "the," G like "sjee," "S" is a lisp. His taste is impaired, but still enables him to distinguish different articles and their respective qualities, as grouse from partridge, bitters from sweets, good beer from bad beer, &c. He has remarked that the seat of sensation lies somewhere in the throat, since there is no recognition of taste previous to the act of swallowing; and, in order to ascertain the truth on this point more precisely, the following experiments were made:

1. A strong solution of salt was applied by means of a

camel-hair brush to the fauces, palate, floor of the mouth, lips, and inner surface of the cheek, with the result of something being felt in the mouth, but no idea formed as to its nature.

- 2. About a quarter of a teaspoonful of finely-powdered sugar was placed on the floor of the mouth, and, having been allowed to remain there a few seconds, was then brought thoroughly into contact with every part of the cavity without any recognition of its nature; but when a little water was added and swallowed, the taste was immediately perceived.
- 3. The same experiment was repeated with another substance (salt), and with the same result.

It has long been known that large portions of the tongue may be removed without destroying or materially impairing the power of articulation, but I am not aware of any case on record in which it has remained so perfect after complete removal of the organ. Of the facts above mentioned, the one that seems most curious is the connection between taste and deglutition; from which it appears that the latter is essential for the full perception of the former. If the pleasure of taste could be perfectly gratified by mastication without deglutition, there would be no limit to the consumption of food; but the instinctive desire to swallow an agreeable morsel affords a check to any such abuse.

Prof. Syme gives also a representation of the microscopic structure exhibited by the tumor, showing that it presented the characters of epithelial cancer.—Lancet.

[The writings of Prof. Syme have been edited and republished in this country by Prof. Robt. S. Newton, M.D.—Ed.]

New and Ready Mode of Producing Anaethesia.

Dr. B. W. Richardson has been for some years engaged in researches for the production of local anæsthesia. Snow maintained that all narcotics produce anæsthesia by the process of arresting oxidation. Dr. R. has come to the conclusion that arrest of oxidation means arrest of motion, and that

anæsthesia in truth means the temporary death of a part, i. e., inertia in the molecules of the part. This led him to the conclusion that Dr. Arnott's plan of using extreme cold was the first true step in the progress of discovery, and that if it could be made easier of application and at the same time could be combined with the use of a narcotic fluid an important advance in therapentics would necessarily follow. R. has been for four years engaged in experimenting with a view of demonstrating this. Finally he has devised an apparatus consisting "simply of a graduated bottle for holding ether; through a perforated cork a double tube is inserted, one extremity of the inner part of which goes to the bottom Above the cork a little tube, connected with of the bottle. a hand bellows, pierces the outer part of the double tube, and communicates by means of the outer part, by a small aperture, with the interior of the bottle. The inner tube for delivering the ether runs upwards nearly to the extremity of the outer tube. Now, when the bellows are worked, a double current of air is produced, one current descending and pressing upon the ether, forcing it along the inner tube, and the other ascending through the outer tube and playing upon the column of ether as it escapes through the fine jet. By having a series of jets to fit on the lower part of the inner tube, the volume of ether can be moderated at pleasure; and by having a double tube for the admission of air, and two pairs of hand bellows, the volume of ether and of air can be equally increased with pleasure, and with the production of a degree of cold six below zero.

"By this simple apparatus, at any temperature of the day and at any season, the surgeon has thus in his hands a means for producing cold even six degrees below zero; and by directing the spray upon a half-inch test-tube containing water, he can produce a column of ice in two minutes at most. Further, by this modification of Siegle's apparatus he can distribute fluids in the form of spray into any of the cavities of the body—into the bladder, for instance, by means of a spray catheter, or into the uterus by an uterine spray catheter.

"When the ether spray thus produced is directed upon the outer skin, the skin is rendered insensible within a minute; but the effects do not end here. So soon as the skin is divided the ether begins to exert on the nervous filaments the double action of cold and of etherization; so that the narcotism can be extended deeply to any desired extent. Pure rectified ether used in this manner is entirely negative; it causes no irritation, and may be applied to a deep wound, as I shall show, without any danger. I have applied it direct to the mucous membrane of my own eye, after first chilling the ball with the lid closed.

"I have now employed this mode of producing local anæsthesia in four cases on the human subject. The first case was the extraction of a tooth from a lady, the operation being performed by my friend and neighbor, Dr. Sedgwick, on January 24th of this year. On the 29th of the same month I used it again on the same lady for the extraction of three very difficult teeth, Dr. Sedgwick again operating. The results were as satisfactory as in the previous case, where the ice and salt ether apparatus was used.

"I have used the apparatus also in connection with my friend Mr. Adams, who had a case at the Great Northern Hospital of deep dissecting abscess in the thigh of a young In the abscess there was a small opening, which just admitted the director. I first narcotized around this opening, and the director being introduced, Mr. Adams carried his bistoury nearly an inch deep and one inch in the line of the director. I then narcotized the deep-seated parts, and enabled him to cut for another inch and a half in the same direction. The director was then placed in the upper line of the abscess, the process was repeated, and the incision was carried two and a half inches in that direction. The patient was entirely unconscious of pain, and after narcotizing the whole of the deep surface, Mr. Adams inserted his fingers and cleared out the wound without creating the slightest evidence of pain.

"Afterwards, in the case of a lacerated wound, six inches long, in the arm of a boy, who had been injured with ma-

chinery, I narcotized while six sutures were introduced by Mr. Adams. The first needle was carried through without the anæsthetic, and caused expression of acute pain; the remaining eleven needles, after a few seconds' administration of the ether spray, were passed through painlessly. The twisting of the wire sutures gave no pain.

"These results are so interesting that I make no apology for bringing them at once before my medical brethren. I wish it to be distinctly understood that at the present moment I only introduce the method here described for the production of superficial local anæsthesia. It is, I believe, applicable to a large number of minor operations, for which the more dangerous agent chloroform is now commonly employed—I mean such operations as tooth extraction, tying nævus, tying piles, incising carbuncles, opening abscesses, putting in sutures, removing small tumours, removing the toe-nail, dividing tendons, operating for fistula, removing cancer of the lip, and other similar minor operations which I need not mention. The process may also be applied to reduce local inflammation.

"In course of time, and guided by experience and the advancement of science, we may, however, expect more. If an anæsthetic fluid of negative qualities, as regards irritation of nerve, and which has a boiling point of 75° or 80°, can be obtained from the hydrocarbon series, the deepest anæsthesia may be produced, and even a limb may be amputated by this method. It may also turn out that certain anæsthetics may be added to the ethereal solution with advantage, such as small quantities of chloroform, or some of the narcotic alkaloids, if they could be made soluble in ether. A solution of morphia and atropia combined, if they could be diffused through ether, which at present seems impossible, could thus be brought into action so as to cause deep insensibility. In operating on the extremities it would be good practice to stop the current of warm blood by making pressure above on the main artery.

"Reaction from the anæsthesia is in no degree painful, and hemorrhage is almost entirely controlled during the anæsthesia. "One or two precautions are necessary. It is essential, in the first place, to use pure rectified ether; methylated ether causes irritation, and chloroform, unless largely diluted with ether—say one part in eight—does the same."—Med. Times and Gazette, Feb. 3, 1866.

Tetanus and Gelsemin.—By Robert A. Simpson, M. D., Liverpool, Pennsylvania.

In twenty years' extensive practice I have seen a great deal of tetanus. I have seen it coming on from the slightest cause, and proving fatal in a few hours. I have known an apparently healthy woman attacked the third day after confinement, and die on the fourth. I have witnessed children being beat for their obstinacy in not taking their food, who were actually suffering from trismus, the effects of a slight burn, and die within twenty-four hours. I have known it result after the operation of hernia, when the cicatrix was forming, and the patient die. I have seen tetanic spasms come on after the same operation, whilst returning the intestine, and death result in a few hours. I have seen it occur after all kinds of operations, major and minor, from amputations of all descriptions; from the irritation of dentition; from the irritation of the navel, a few days after birth. I have seen it in numerous instances arise after a slight wound or scratch on the great toe and thumb, caused by the individual perhaps treading on a nail, or striking his foot against some substance.

Treatment.—I have, until lately, looked upon the treatment of tetanus as hopeless, perfectly hopeless. In my early practice I resorted to venesection, opium, aloes, henbane, belladonna, with perfect rest in a dark, quiet room. I have divided the nerve high up in the limb, far away from the seat of all irritation. I have divided the posterior tibial, where the injury was in the foot, without success; no relief in any case. Tobacco I have tried, with some degree of benefit; but the extreme exhaustion was very great. Capsicum, cypripedin and lobelin, I have used with frequent

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Ice to the spine, morphia, atropia, subcutaneously, I have tried, but have no faith in them. The wourali poison, Indian hemp, aconite, I have used with considerable success, and effected some good cures; chloroform, also, I have found a very excellent adjunct, and like it in combination with these remedies. Gelsemin is the best remedy, however, that I have ever used. I use it in various ways; exhibit it internally, per rectum, in large doses, bringing the patient completely under its influence. I apply the pure concentrated tincture to the wound, if there is one. I denude the cuticle along the spine by means of the blistering fluid, and apply lint saturated with this tincture. I support my patients, giving freely, per rectum, essence of beef and quinine, and if the case demands it, stimulants freely. With this latter treatment I have been most successful in saving life; it seems to act by producing nervous paralysis, arresting the irritation; preventing it running along the nervous branch to the great nerve centres; and even if the mischief is done, I have been successful, and have the most implicit confidence in its remedial powers. Try it. It is the grand remedy in tetanus.— Eclectic Medical Journal of Penn.

Menorrhagia.—By John Buchanan, M. D., Professor of the Principles of Surgery in the Eclectic Medical College of Pennsylvania.

A flow of the menses is to be considered as immoderate, when it either returns more frequently than what is natural, continues longer than ordinary, or is more abundant than is usual with the same person at other times. The quantity generally discharged in a healthy and regular woman, is from four to six ounces at each visitation. Those of a lax and delicate constitution have a more copious and longer continued discharge than persons of a robust habit.

The causes of menorrhagia may be: a plethoric, a general fulness of habit; accidental circumstances determining the blood more copiously and forcibly into the uterine vessels, as violent exercise, passions of the mind; irritations acting particularly on the uterus; laxity and debility of the organ;

anything which induces debility of the whole system; organic affections, &c., &c.

Treatment.—If this affection occurs in a plethoric patient, it might be well to put her upon aconite or veratrum, gelsemin and senecin—an excellent combination in those cases—giving but little stimulus, exhibiting an eighth of a grain of podophyllin every night; making use of a spare diet, drinking freely of acidulated drinks, keeping the apartment of a moderate temperature, her bed being lightly covered with clothes; the patient avoiding the erect posture, and everything that might prove as an exciting cause. By attending to these, moderating the first commencement, and keeping the patient rigidly upon the senecin, we prevent that debility which repeated and severe attacks are very apt to occasion. In this complaint the senecin is an admirable agent; it has proved eminently successful in my hands.

When the hemorrhage has arisen in consequence of a laxity of the vessels, besides keeping the woman in the recumbent position, avoiding much external heat, making use of refrigerants internally, we should have recourse to sedatives and astringents, internally as well as externally, such as senecin and hyosciamin; or senecin, lycopin and myricin; or senecin and rhusin; or senecin and hydrastin in alternation with erigeron. The oil of erigeron is a very valuable and useful medicine in menorrhagia. In extreme cases, in addition to internal administration, it may be applied locally with the best results. A piece of linen cloth, saturated with the oil, introduced into the vagina, and placed in close . proximity to the mouth of the uterus, an instantaneous stop is put upon the bloody flow. It may be given with good effect in a triturated form, with senecin and hyosciamin. Unless in very urgent cases, I prefer it given in small doses, frequently repeated. The astringents most employed in this disease have little effect.

In those cases where the hemorrhage is profuse, and resists the means already recommended, it might be proper to throw up injections into the uterus, say of hamamelin and myricin. Where symptoms denoting an increased action in

the vessels of the uterus are observable, it would be highly beneficial to put the patient slightly under the influence of gelsemin. Small doses of digitalin might be added with a most excellent result.

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Where menorrhagia proceeds from a scirrhus, or ulcerated state of the uterus, all that can be done is to try some of the vegetable alteratives; use injections of hamamelin and per sulphate of iron; the exhibition of erigeron and hyoscyamin.

In those cases where menstruation becomes profuse, continues longer than usual, or returns more frequently than what is natural, in consequence of general laxity in the system, it will be highly judicious for the patient to enter upon a general alterative and tonic course, such as stillingin and senecin; or irisin and senecin; or corydalin and senecin; or phytolacin and senecin; or the C. syr. phosphates and senecin; Huxham's tinct. cinchona, or Beache's wine bitters, or mother's cordial. To assist the effect of these remedies, she might use the cold bath; strict attention to all hygienic measures, gentle exercise, a generous diet, with the occasional administration of iron, will be likely to afford much benefit.

When, from great weakness and relaxation in the uterine parts, the patient is troubled with a profuse menorrhagia, or with an excessive leucorrhœa, she will experience great relief by the exhibition of the following remedies: senecin and helonin; senecin and trillin; or senecin and macrotin; or in combination with iron by hydrogen. With regard to hemorrhage from the uterus, it is often accompanied with a degree of fever, pain in the back and loins, and local irritation, when every remedy seems to aggravate the disorder; and it is then that the senecin and helonin, in the C. syr. partridge berry are invaluable.

To repress the too great or permanent menstruation, which occurs in weak constitutions at the time of life when it ought to cease, we should have recourse to senecin, helonin, viburnin, hydrastin, menispermin, together with bark, iron, and the phosphates.—Eclectic Medical Journal of Penn.

EDITORIAL.

For cogent business and professional reasons, we have determined, on issuing the second No. of the Review, to adopt the title of THE AMERICAN ECLECTIC MEDICAL REVIEW.

The Eclectic Medical College of the City of New York.

THE importance of this Institution can hardly be over estimated. It will have its foundations laid in a time of peculiar interest in the history of our country, and in the midst of a vast population of all nationalities and of all political, religious and medical creeds, with a vast multitude who are ever vibrating, "unstable as water," without convictions or settled opinions. Here, it will commence its existence and growth, in the midst of and surrounded by Allopathic schools of medicine, with an atmosphere of exclusive hardness, illiberality, bigotry, intolerance and professional tyranny, that will call for the exercise of great devotion, firmness, patience, equanimity, and at times charity on the part of its faculty, and the friends entrusted with its management. We look upon these as the conditions essential to a sturdy and vigorous growth, and not as disadvantages. "Excelsior" implies mountains to be climbed, obstacles to be overcome, the loftiest altitude to be aspired to, endless progression. "Excelsior" is our motto and will be that of the Eclectic Medical College of the city of New York. The pure bracing airs among the mountains of opposition only warm our blood for the welcome struggle. The right, if persisted in, must and will nobly triumph. Prove us in the wrong and we will always be the first to yield up any opinion or practice, however cherished, and go for the right. We believe there is more indefensible medical malpractice among Allopathic physicians in the city of New York than in any other place on this continent, and that this evil is largely on the increase, especially among the helpless poor whose Doctor's bills are paid for out of the public treasury, and that this is due in a great measure, to the rapid and unfair concentration of political, professional and exclusive official power in the hands of those who are at the head of the various Allopathic schools, who have proved themselves adepts in the arts of management and demagoguery. To meet this uprising tide of medical infidelity to the interests of the sick and afflicted—to check this selfish disregard of experience and of life—we look upon the founding of the Eclectic Medical College in this city as a measure of the utmost beneficence and importance. It will at once become the rallying point and impregnable citadel, for all who would avoid the tyrannous domination of Allopathic professional pretension and intolerance. Already a numerous body of students have signified their intention of attending, and the prospect bids fair, that the number will be largely increased before opening day. The Eclectic Medical College will make a large and constantly increasing drain on the Allopathic Medical Schools located here, of the more independent, manly and mentally unfettered students desirous of becoming truly enlightened and skilful in all things pertaining to their profession. This Institution will present unequalled advantages, as it will teach all that is distinctive in the Allopathic Curriculum in addition to the full Eclectic course of instruction. The creed of the Eclectic Medical College of the city of New York is fully embodied in the scriptural injunction, "Prove all things, and hold fast (only) that which is good." This sententious formula will be placed in letters of gold over the portals of the new institution.

Starting on this basis, can any one for a moment doubt of its permanent success. We call earnestly on all Eclectic Medical practitioners everywhere, to advise and encourage students to attend upon this school, which will have advantages equal to any of our excellent older Eclectic medical schools, with some special desirabilities not to be obtained elsewhere, at any price. Arrangements have been made, which will afford the finest hospital facilities, for observing and comparing the results achieved by the various schools of Medicine in the application of their distinctive remedies, pathological theories, and general and special practice, to which will be added peculiar advantages in surgery and in the treatment of various forms of disease.

The New York State Eclectic Medical Society.

This body, which met at the Cooper Institute in this city during the past month on the occasion of its fourth annual meeting, is composed of a class of live men and practitioners, and has a membership of over 100 from all parts of the State. Twenty-two new members were admitted at the last meeting, under the somewhat exacting rules of admission of the Society. We look for the organization of State Eclectic Medical Societies, in all the States of the Union, at no distant day. Already Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Vermont, Connecticut, New York, Pennsylvania, Ohio, and Indiana have organ-

ized State Eclectic Medical Societies. We hope to see all these societies adopt the plan of District Auxiliary Societies, similar to those of the State of New York, so as to insure a thorough canvassing of the entire country for the purpose of inducing every practitioner of Eclecticism in medicine to join his name, effort, and influence to a great united movement to enforce full recognition of our professional status and rights, and to compel, by the force of a resistless enlightened public opinion, the substitution and adoption of the wonderfully efficient Eclectic remedies and practice, in place of the deleterious and fatally destructive mineral agents, which form the basis of the Allopathic treatment of all forms of disease.

The State Eclectic Medical Society of New York has a wide field of professional usefulness before it; and a noble and beneficent harvest in the interests of suffering humanity awaits the sickle of the diligent, enlightened and skillful laborer therein. United, earnest, fraternal effort among its members, directed to the supreme objects of bringing in new members, encouraging and aiding each other, and in enlightening and persuading the more progressive, conscientious, liberal, unprejudiced and really humane practitioners of the Allopathic School to test our remedies, honestly observe and note facts in our practice, and to convince themselves of its superiority in this practical way, will enable it to build, with unexampled rapidity, a noble and enduring monument of its labors, in the establishment of a great central national Eclectic Medical School in the city of New York, which shall take the foremost and very highest place, among the medical institutions in this country.

The Empire State Eclectic Medical Society can and will set an example of intelligently directed effort and devotion to the cause of medical Eclecticism and education, by the thoroughness of its organization, the liberality of its policy, by its generous contributions of time and money, and its cordial support of all measures calculated to build up our professional literature, and extend the advantages of our most humane, scientific and beneficent system of practice, with the general introduction of our Eclectic Remedies, which we know, and have demonstrated time and again, are entirely safe, leaving no injurious after-results in the system, and are much more effective in producing the desired results than the mineral agents which act as cumulative poisons upon the system, as mercury, antimony, arsenic, lead, &c., with bloodletting, which form the chief reliance in all cases, with Allopathic practitioners. Our State Society, by its exertion

and influence, can do much to encourage other State Societies, and to induce the scattered Eelectic practitioners in all parts to open correspondence, subscribe to Eelectic medical journals, and to enter upon the vital business of immediate organization, with a view to concentrate our efforts in a great, powerful and united organization, to be known and felt as the American Eelectic Medical Association. We expect to see assembled at some central point, during the coming year, a mass convention of the live Eelectic medical practitioners of the United States, which will culminate in strengthening and uniting upon a common basis, all effort to advance the cause of progressive medicine and the interests of Allopathically-suffering humanity.

The Sanitary Condition of Our City.

THE extraordinary effort which has been made by the Metropolitan Board of Health, to cleanse and purify the city, is highly commendable, and no doubt, its effect will be, the saving of thousands of our citizens from falling a prey to the epidemic Cholera which, in all probability, will visit us this season. There is yet much to be done by this Board, and perhaps there is no part of this great work so important as the duty assigned to the local Inspectors. This is strikingly exemplified by the result of the two cases of Cholera, one in Broome, the other in West 20th St., during the week preceding the 10th of June. Both cases died. When the Health Physician was called to examine the circumstances connected with these cases, he reported that the disease was caused by overflowing privy-vaults. Now, if this was the case, why had not the local Inspectors reported the condition of these premises to the Board, and had them cleaned out, before it cost this sacrifice of human life. Such neglect carries a dreadful consequence with it, and such instances should stimulate this department of the Health Board to renewed exertions and more prompt action. Doubtless there are thousands of just such cases of filthy and pestilence-breeding surroundings, that up to the present time, have not been reported.

The gentlemen composing the Board of Health have decided, that no school of Medicine, except the Allopathic, are competent to act as custodians of the health of the people of this great city; we are determined, so far as our influence extends, that we will hold the men connected with each department, responsible for every neglect of duty, and will not hesitate to call the attention of the people to such

wanton disregard of their lives and interests. In this way alone will the people learn who is to blame for such neglect, and at the same time the result of the ungenerous and illiberal system of exclusion adopted by the Board of Health.

The Florence Sewing Machine.

This is one of the more recently-introduced first-class family sewing machines which have been submitted to the exacting tests of time, use and comparative and competitive experience. We consider it to be one of the most ingenious and perfect sewing machines ever invented, and that it has valuable distinctive peculiarities not possessed in an equal degree by others, with one or two exclusively its own. The shuttle and tension of the Florence Machine are unquestionably more perfect and uniform than any other. It uses needles as fine as the Wheeler and Wilson, and in the same manner. It also has a reversible feed motion, which enables the operator, with the greatest facility, to sew to the right or left and to lengthen, shorten or stop the stitch, while the machine is in motion. It will perform as wide a range of work as others, and will do some desirable things that cannot be executed on any other sewing machine with which we are The Florence took the Gold Medal of the American acquainted. Institute, at its late annual fair, over all competitors.

It is very elegant in design, and is an attractive article of furniture. It is manufactured at Florence, Mass., and its principal sales and instruction rooms—where every style of the machine and its work can be examined—are at 505 Broadway, adjoining the St. Nicholas Hotel. From a sanitary and medical stand-point, as a means of lightening the most wearing and exhausting work allotted to woman, we look upon the improvement and perfection of the sewing machine as a matter of the highest importance; and one peculiarity very essential, is the utmost ease of motion, requiring the least strain of the limbs, and in this respect the Florence is equal to any machine we have examined.

Correction.—We would especially call the attention of the readers of the "Review" to the recipe on page 24 of the June No. For tablespoonful read teaspoonful.

REVIEWS AND BIBLIOGRAPHICAL NOTICES.

AN ACT TO CREATE A METROPOLITAN SANITARY DISTRICT AND BOARD OF HEALTH FOR THE CITY OF NEW YORK.

This is the complete act of incorporation, passed by the General Assembly of the State of New York, Feb. 28, 1866. This act is divided into 131 sections, and makes a pamphlet of 32 pages.

VALEDICTORY ADDRESS, delivered at the sixth annual commencement of the Homeopathic Medical College of New York City, Feb. 28, 1866, by Samuel D. Barlow, M. D.

This is an able address and will well pay every physician and medical student to peruse. It also contains the annual announcement of the College with the matriculants and graduates of 1865—'66.

DENTAL Cosmos, a Monthly Record of Dental Science, devoted to the interest of the profession. Edited by J. H. McQuillen, D. D. S. & George J. Ziegler, M. D., Philadelphia.

We are pleased to again receive this work, having exchanged with them for many years while connected with another Journal. Our intimate acquaintance with this work enables us to speak of its great value and usefulness, and we would fully recommend it to the Dental and Medical profession. It is published monthly with 64 pages. Price \$2 50 per annum.

It is got up in the best possible style.

HISTORY OF AMERICAN ECLECTIC MEDICINE.—Its Schools and Literature, by Robert S. Newton, M. D. Delivered before the Eclectic Medical Society of the State of New York, 12 pps.

On the use of Medicated Inhalations in the treatment of diseases of the Respiratory organs by John M. Scudder, M. D., 99 pps.

A valuable work on this interesting subject full of useful suggestions as to the employment of atomized fluids in various diseases.

Well-bound, readable type and worth the money.

NEWS AND MISCELLANY.

Edectic Medical Societies.

We are glad to see that our friends in various sections of the country, are organizing Eclectic Medical Societies and holding meetings, for the purpose of consolidating our strength, and giving character and influence to our system. It is the surest means by which Eclecticism can be made to occupy the position, and command the respect which it deserves. Practitioners will materially advance their individual interests, as well as the interest of Eclectic medicine,

by taking active measures to accomplish such a result. Societies should be formed in every County, District and State. We hope soon to hear from our Illinois, Michigan, Iowa and Missouri Eclectic physicians on this subject. As soon as each State is fully organized, there should be a reorganization of the National Eclectic Medical Association.

Abstract of the Proceedings of the Eclectic Medical Society of THE STATE OF NEW YORK.

The fourth annual meeting of this Society was held at the Cooper Institute, on Wednesday and Thursday, 18th and 14th of June, 1866. President Robert S. Newton in the chair. Minutes of the last annual meeting were read and approved. Drs. D. E. Smith, J. T. Burdick, and H. E. Firth were appointed a committee on Credentials, who made a re-

port, which was accepted.

The Board of Censors reported the following candidates for permanent membership, who, on ballot, were unanimously elected: Drs. Walter D. Jones, Newburgh; G. E. Lawrence, Smyrna; Louis Leaman, Brooklyn; Dr. Jacobson, Williamsburg; Dr. Schofield, Williamsburg; D. A. Chase, Cambridge; A. R. Edson, Greenwich; W. E. Finkle, Rensselaer; J. L. Humphrey, Little Falls; E. Whitney, New York; A. B. Whitney, New York; D. Wilcox, Brooklyn; H. C. Taylor; A. B. Parsons; Thomas D. Worrall, New York; L. H. Bone, New York; Edwin Freeman, New York; L. B. Hoag, Carmel; J. A. Henshall, New York; M. Hermance, Brooklyn; E. H. Sands, Brooklyn; H. C. Gazlay, Courtland.

The Treasurer made his annual report, which was received and placed on file. The Secretary reported that he had prepared and forwarded to the Legislature, the last annual report of the proceedings of this Society,

which has been ordered to be printed.

The following-named gentlemen were then elected officers for the ensuing year:

President—Robert S. Newton, M. D., New York

Vice-President—Samuel Tuthill, M. D., Poughkeepsie.

Recording Secretary—WILLIAM W. HADLEY, M. D., Williamsburg.

Corresponding Secretary—M. M. Fenner, M. D., Jamestown.

Treasurer—Dennis E. Smith, M. D., Brooklyn.

Board of Censors—H. E. Firth; William Jones; H. Pease; E. Free-MAN; A. B. WESTOOTT; H. C. TAYLOR; H. C. GAZLAY; J. A. MARTIN.

After the announcement was made of the officers for the ensuing year, the President addressed the meeting at some length. He spoke of the organization and progress of the Society to the present time, and urged upon the members the importance of a continued harmonious action.

Dr. E. Whitney offered the following:

Whereas, certain articles on cholera and quarantine have appeared in the "N. Y. Citizen", therefore

Resolved, that we request the re-publication of the same in the columns. of that Journal or in pamphlet form.

Session convened at 8 p. m. President R. S. Newton in the chair.

Dr. James T. Burdick delivered the annual oration.

Prof. Clark, of Philadelphia, followed with some remarks on the condition of Eclecticism in America.

Prof. Thomas D. Worrall made a brief address in regard to the importance and fitness of New York, for the establishment of a great central national Eclectic Medical College. He said, that he had been a member

of the Territorial Legislature of Colorado, and was somewhat acquainted with the influence of public opinion upon the ballot, and urged it as a duty especially incumbent on every eclectic practitioner, to use his influence to secure the election of only such members to the Legislature, as will see that equal justice is done to the practitioners of all schools of medicine, wherever State legislation is had.

Drs. R. S. Newton, E. Freeman, and J. T. Burdick were appointed a Committee to draft resolutions and prepare a memoir on W. Byrd Powell, M. D. (lately deceased), Emeritus Professor of Cerebral Physiology in the Eclectic Medical College of New York city.

On motion of Prof. Worrall, a Committee was appointed to prepare resolutions and take suitable action on the course of Gov. Fenton—in not heeding the petition of Eclectic and Homeopathic physicians representing more than one-half the families who pay their doctor's bills—and ignoring their claims in appointing the professional members of the Board of Health.

2D DAY, 15TH JUNE.

The Society was called to order, by the President, at 10 o'clock. A. M. The subject of Concentrated Remedies was then introduced and discussed at some lengthby Drs. Martin, Whitney, Jones, Hadley, and Newton.

Dr. Colton favored the Society with a history of nitrous oxide gas, and its application as an anæsthetic, for the extraction of teeth, and in surgical operations. He also administered the gas to two persons, for the extraction of teeth, in the presence of the convention.

On motion Drs. Hadley, Freeman, and H. E. Firth were appointed a committee, to inquire into the purity and the medicinal action of the Concentrated or Eclectic remedies, and to report at the next annual meeting.

A paper on the subject of Diphtheria, by O. E. Newton, M. D., of Cincinnati, was read.

An essay, by Dr. J. B. Stowe, of Brooklyn, on Progressive Medicine, was also read.

Dr. E. Freeman, of New York city, read an elaborate paper on "The Status of Medical Eclecticism."

Dr. H. C. Gazlay presented a paper on the History of Ancient and Modern Medicine.

By resolution the President was directed to confer with the officers of the various State Eclectic Medical Societies in reference to the immediate organization of a great National Eclectic Medical Convention, to be held in 1867.

Delegates were appointed to represent this Society at the various State Eclectic Medical Societies.

Edwin Freeman, M. D., of New York, was appointed orator, and Drs. H. E. Firth and H. C. Gazlay essayists for the next annual meeting.

The entire proceedings were referred to the Committee on Publication, to be published under the auspices of the Legislature.

On motion the Society adjourned, to meet at Saratoga Springs, the second Wednesday in June, 1867.

MASSACHUSETTS ECLECTIC MEDICAL SOCIETY.

The annual meeting of this Society was held at the Revere House, Boston, June 18th.

The following officers were chosen for the ensuing year:

President—DR. Wm. Bass, of Lowell.

Vice-President—Dr. J. M. Aldrich, of Fall River.

Recording Secretary—Dr. C. E. Miles, of Roxbury.

Corresponding Secretary—Dr. S. P. Hubbard, of Taunton.

Treasurer—Dr. W. E. Wright, of Cambridgeport.

Librarian—Dr. J. Jackson, of Boston.

Counsellors—Drs. W. E. Underwood, of Boston; John Stowe, of Lawrence; J. F. Dickens, of Newburyport; S. C. Ames, of Boston; and

C. A. Wheeler, of Leominster.

The attendance was large, and the proceedings harmonious and interesting. Dr. Paul W. Allen, who has been the Recording Secretary of the society from its organization (except for one year, when President), declined a reëlection, on account of his appointment to the chair of Theory and Practice in the New York Eclectic Medical College; and a most cordial vote of thanks was tendered him for his able and faithful services.

Several gentlemen were elected members of the society.

At one o'clock the annual address was delivered by H. W. Buxton, M. D., of Worcester, on the subject of "Brouchial Tubercular Consumption," and the address was principally devoted to a consideration of some of the symptoms, and the methods and manner of ascertaining the condition of the lungs, and the indications of treatment.

The By-laws of the society were so amended that the annual meeting will hereafter be held on the first Thursday in June; and the annual

assessment on each member be five dollars.

The annual dinner was most sufficient and sumptuous, Dr. Underwood, of Boston, presiding as anniversary chairman. A sentiment to "The Clergy" was admirably responded to by the chaplain of the day, Rev. Dr. Eddy; and other sentiments were responded to by Drs. Buxton, Allen, Wright, Mills, Stone and Skinner.

Dr. H. G. Barrows of Boston read a poetical effusion, full of hits at the fashions and follies of the different schools of medical practice, which

was very much relished by those present.

This closed the festivities of the table. It is worthy of remark that although it was optional with those present at the dinner, there was no wine or spirituous liquors ordered by any one.

The society was addressed by Drs. Allen, Andrews and Geddes in support of the following resolution, which was unanimously adopted:

Resolved: That this society recognize, with peculiar satisfaction, the establishment of Eclectic Medical Societies, Colleges and Journals, in every section of our country.

After dinner the society went into session, and it was voted that the next annual and semi-annual meeting of the Society will be held in

Boston.

Various reports were then made relative to the use of new remedies recently introduced within the past few years.

Dr. C. E. Miles of Roxbury was appointed Orator for the next annual meeting, and Dr. W. E. Underwood of Boston, anniversary chairman.

The following gentlemen were elected delegates to other State Medical Societies:

New York—Drs. Underwood and Miles.

Vermont—Drs. R. W. Geddes and John S. Andrews. Pennsylvania—Drs. H. D. Jillson and A. W. Sidney.

Connecticut—Drs. H. W. Buxton and J. M. Comins.

Maine—Drs. Wm. Bass and P. W. Allen.

Drs. J. M. Aldrich, G. W. Skinner and J. S. Andrews were appointed Essayists for the next semi-annual meeting to be held on the second Wednesday in January next. Adjourned.

ECLECTIC MEDICAL SOCIETY OF THE STATE OF VERMONT.

Pursuant to a call issued by the Eclectic Physicians of this State, they assembled at Montpelier on Wednesday, June 6th 1866 and adopted a Constitution and By-Laws, and elected the following officers for the coming year:

President.—H. G. Brush, M. D., Fairfax.

(JOHN DURKER, M. D., North Tunbridge. Vice-Presidents.— W. D. Waller, M. D. Fayetteville. J. M. Templeton, M. D. Montpelier.

Secretary.—G. A. BAGLEY, M. D. Chelsea.

Corresponding Secretary.—F. Gunner, M. D. Bristol.

Treasurer.—M. McOlearn, M. D. Northfield.

Board of Censors.—Albert Dodge, M. D., of Chelsea; F. Gunner, M. D. of Bristol; W. S. Johnson, M. D., of Milton; G. H. Plumley, M. D. of St. Albans.

This meeting was attended by many of the substantial, worthy and true friends of Medical Reform. The meeting was characterized by the utmost harmony, and a firm determination to perfect and maintain a complete organization in this State. It has never been our pleasure to enjoy a more delightful acquaintance than we formed with our Eastern friends upon this occasion. The Eclectic Physicians of Vermont are wealthy, numerous, talented and in every way, able to sustain themselves among opposing branches of the profession. A resolution was adopted recommending the incorporation of this Society with its Auxiliaries, upon the plan in operation in the State of New York. Their next annual meeting will be held in Montpelier on the 6th of June, 1867.

ECLECTIC MEDICAL SOCIETY OF THE STATE OF INDIANA.

The annual meeting of this Society was held on the 5th and 6th of June, 1866. There was a full attendance, and the proceedings were very interesting. This society is composed of many of the substantial men of our School of Practice in that State. Election of officers for the ensuing year resulted as follows:

President.—W. H. KENDRICK, M. D. Indianapolis.

Vice-Presidents.— S. D. MoCANN, M. D. Indianapolis. J. W. Ellis, M. D. Peru.

Recording Secretary.—E. P. Jones, M. D. Jonesborough.

Corresponding Secretary.—G. W. Pickerill, M. D. Indianapolis.

Treasurer.—Gideon Wonsetler, M. D.

The next Annual Meeting will be held, in Indianapolis, the first Tuesday in June, 1867.

Eclectic Medical Society of the State of Ohio.

This Society held its annual meeting on the 80th and 81st of May, 1866 at Cincinnati, Ohio. This meeting was well attended and very interesting. Many subjects connected with the profession were introduced, and ably discussed by different members of the Association. The following officers were elected for the ensuing year:

President.—John King, M. D. Cincinnati.

Vice-Presidents.— { J. M. Flood, M. D. Lebanon. JAMES ANTON, M. D.

Recording Secretary.—O. T. WILLIAMS, M. D. Cincinnati. Corresponding Secretary.—WILLIAM D. BRANSTRUP, M. D. Middleport.

Treasurer.—J. M. Soudder, M. D. Cincinnati.

The next annual meeting will be held at Lebanon, O. the last Wednesday in May, 1867.

ECLECTIC MEDICAL SOCIETY OF CONNECTICUT.

The annual meeting of this Society was held at New Haven, on the 8th day of May, 1866. The following gentlemen were elected officers for the year ensuing:

President, J. W. Johnson, M. D. Hartford. Vice-President, H. W. Fisk, M. D. Guilford.

Recording Secretary, N. D. Hodgkins, M. D. Rocky Hill.

Corresponding Secretary, J. H. Robinson, M. D. New Haven.

Treasurer, DANIEL KINGSBURY, M. D. Glastenbury.

A full delegation of physicians, from all parts of the State, were in attendance. Dissertations on different medical subjects were read, and much good feeling, and a cordial interchange of views prevailed. Professors R. S. Newton, of New York, and Paul W. Allen, of Massachusetts, delegates, addressed the convention with ability. In the evening a bountiful repast was furnished, where an hour was spent in discussing the merits of the viands which were sumptuously provided. The reports from all portions of the State show a steadily increasing sentiment in favor of the Eclectic, or American system of liberal medicine.

This Society is now in a condition to do much good, being composed

of strong and substantial men.

Union Eclectic Medical Society.

Abstract of the proceedings of the annual meeting of the Union E. M. Society of Clermont Co., Ohio, April 28, 1866.

Society met pursuant to adjournment at Cherry Grove, Ohio.

The election of Officers for the ensuing year, resulted as follows:

President—W. M. Ingalls, M. D., Amelia;

Vice-President—J. M. DAY, M. D., Point Isabell;

Secretary—R. MARSH, M. D., Marathon;

Treasurer-J. S. MARTIN, M. D., Cherry Grove;

Censors—J. M. Powell, M. D., Cherry Grove; C. Gaskins, M. D., Amelia; C. J. Monjar, M. D., Amelia; Geo. A. Moore, M. D., New Town,

A lengthy communication was read by the Secretary, from Prof. R. S. Newton, of New York City, giving an encouraging account of the cause of Eclecticism in the East, which was on motion received and placed on file.

Dr. R. Marsh read a report on Spotted Fever.

Dr. N. M. Ingalls read an interesting essay on New School Medicine.

Dr. J. S. Martin reported an interesting case of Psoas Abscess, of sixteen months' standing.

Dr. Ingalls reported a case of Indigestion, with severe pain in stomach and bowels. Prescribed the following: B. Populin, grs. xx.; Alnuin, grs. x.; Sac. Alb., zj. M. Div. pulv. 20. Gave one four times per day. When there is Gastrodynia present, use the following: B. Dioscorein, zss.,; Alnuin, Populin aa grs. xij; Sac. Alb. q. s. M. Div. pulv. 20. Give one four times per day.

Dr. Marsh reported a case where the ext. eme suffering was relieved

by the internal use of chloroform.

Dr. Ingalls, by request of the Society, made some remarks upon the subject of Cholera and its treatment.

The President, in accordance with a resolution passed, appointed the following gentlemen to report on the following subjects at the next meet-

ing.

Dr. J. S. MARTIN, Dysentery. " Geo. A. Moore, Bilious Fever. " J. M. Powell, Chronic Gastritis. " B. BLYTHE, Diseases of Rectum. " R. MARSH, Dyphtheria. " C. GASKINS, Encephalitis. " N. C. NICHOLSON, The importance of organization. " J. H. DAY, Uterine Hemorrhage. " C. J. Monjar, Syphilis. " M. STROUP, Cholera Infantum. " W. M. INGALLS, Bilious Cholic. " — McDonough, Pneumonia.

On motion the Secretary was instructed to furnish a copy of the proceedings of this meeting to the E. M. Journal of Cincinnati, and the New York Medical Review, for publication.

On motion adjourned, to meet at Amelia, on Wednesday, Oct. 3, 1866. W. M. INGALLS, M. D., Pres.

R. MARSH, M. D., Sec.

Important Recipes and Notices of New Remedies.

We propose to have in each number of this Journal, a series of formulas and notices of new remedies, that will be valuable and convenient to practitioners.

STILLINGIA.

Stillingia was first introduced into practice by Eclectic physicians, and now commands as much confidence with those who are acquainted with its therapeutical action, as any agent in the . Materia Medica. As a general alterative in Scrofula, Syphilis, in the various diseases of the bones, and many of the cutaneous diseases. we have found it superior to any other agent. It is also valuable as a local application in the treatment of deep seated ulcers, of both bone and soft tissues; especially is it applicable in scrofulous ulceration. It may be used in such cases in the form of a concentrated tincture, or in the pulverized form; where the ulcer is deep with a free opening upon the surface a sufficient quantity of the powder to cover the entire base should be applied night and morning, over which should be applied the common adhesive plaster. If there be a sinus or fistula from abscess, and the opening cannot be sufficiently enlarged to be dressed in the manner just referred to, then the tincture should be injected into the opening. Inasmuch as these remedies act mildly upon the parts and not as a caustic, it will

require several weeks, in the more aggravated forms, to produce their full and complete effect. Under its application the unhealthy discharge is arrested by changing the secreting structure of the ulcer. There is but little pain attending its application and it may be used in perfect safety in all cases. The following formula I have found to be very valuable.

Pulverized Stillingia Sylvatica, 3 j.

Podophyllum Peltatum, 3 ss.

Sulphate of Zinc, 3 j.

Mix.

To be applied in all cases of caries or ulceration of the bones. This will remove in a few days the irregularity of the surface, and will so change the pathological condition of the part as to establish the granulating action, and thereby the diseased portion is thrown off and the part is prepared for the further healthy granulating process. In all cases where the Stillingia is used as a local application, it should be used in connection with the internal administration of the same remedy, which may be in the form

of the tincture, syrup, or Stillingin, the active principle.

Ever since the introduction of Stillingis, in 1847, I have used it in the treatment of constitutional syphilitic diseases, and have never found a case that would not yield to its influence, although I have found it in some cases necessary to use in connection with this, Iron, Irisin, Phytolaccin, Dioscorein or Iodide of Potassium. The internal use of Stilliugia, if given in small doses, as it should be in all cases, will under no circumstances produce debility of the system, but will restore the appetite and increase the strength and flesh of the patient, and if this is not effected, it will be owing to the addition of other agents combined with the same, or the administration of the medicine in excessive doses. To accomplish the object in view with the internal use of this remedy, it should be long and perseveringly employed.

COMPOUND STILLINGIA LINIMENT.

The following recipe I have found very valuable in the treatment of all Laryngeal diseases especially that of croup.

Oil of Stillingia, 3 j.
"Lobelia, 3 ij.
Alcohol, 3 iv.

In cases of croup the neck, throat, chest and vertebral column as far down as the sixth dorsal vertebra should be bathed freely, if the attack is very violent, as often as once every hour; if mild, once in three or four hours.

This will relax the parts and in some cases may even produce vomiting. It is a most powerful relaxant and anti-spasmodic in the treatment of Asthma, when used in the manner directed for

croup. In Laryngitis and Bronchitis it is also beneficial. We first called the attention of the profession to the use of this remedy as a local application in 1852, in the Eclectic Practice of Medicine (Newton & Powell).

MILD ZINC OINTMENT.

After using the following formula for several years in a great variety of diseases, I published the same in the Eclectic Medical Journal in 1854, since which time it has been embodied into various standard Medical works of our school of practice.

Ol. Olivæ Opt., lb. ij.
Spermaceti, 3 xij.
Ceræ Albæ, 3 ix.
Zinci Ox. Albæ, 3 iv.
Acidi Benzoici, 3 ij.
Morphiæ Sulph., 5 ij.
Otto Rosæ, Gtts., xx.

The first three articles are to be melted, and while warm the other articles are to be added, after being finely pulverized and mixed together; the whole to stand until its natural consistency is formed. The ointment can be used in almost every variety of Ophthalmic disease, either acute or chronic; in opacity of the cornea, in nebula, etc., also as a local application for Tetter and Salt rheum, and as a dressing for indolent ulcers as well as wounds in general. In the treatment of burns or scalds, it should be spread upon a piece of cloth of sufficient dimensions to cover the part affected, and applied night and morning. It allays the inflammation in a very few minutes. I have seen the case where the entire chest and abdomen of a child was so extensively scalded as to remove the entire cuticle, relieved in a few hours by its application, as above described.

OBITUARY.

TAYLOR.—After a short illness, at his residence, Bright Hope Farm, near Noble, Richland Co., Ill., March 81st, 1866, of hemorrhage of the stomach, at 2 o'clock and 15 minutes p. m., James D. Taylor, formerly of Cincinnati, in the sixty-third year of his age.

Many of the readers of the Review will remember Mr. Taylor from his long connection with the Eclectic Medical Institute of Cincinnati. For several years he was President of the Board of Trustees of that Institution. He was an ardent friend of Medical Progress. In 1859, while the cholera prevailed as an epidemic in the city of Cincinnati, he was President of the Board of Health. In this relation he was a fearless advocate for the establishment of Cholera Hospitals, to be under the exclusive control of the several schools of medicine. In the Cholera Hospital under the care of eclectic physicians, was established the great and decided superiority of that system of practice, in the treatment of this disease. For many years he was the Editor of the "Cincinnati Times," and never did he hesitate to sustain every progressive movement. His loss is great.

AMERICAN

ECLECTIC MEDICAL REVIEW;

A Monthly Record of Medicine

AND

THE COLLATERAL SCIENCES.

Vol. I.

AUGUST, 1866.

No. 8.

ORIGINAL COMMUNICATIONS.

On New Remedies.—No. L.

BY PROF. J. MILTON SANDERS, M. D., LL.D.

Our Remedies oft in ourselves do lie, Which we ascribe to Heaven; the fated sky Gives us free scope; only doth backward fall Our slow designs, when we ourselves are dult SHAKESPEARE.

In nothing do men so nearly approach to the gods, as in giving health to men.

Crouse

Miseris succurrere disco. ,
VIRGIL.

It is not he who discovers a thing who so much deserves the eulogy of mankind as he who applies this discovery to some useful end. He who renders that certain and useful which was before only conjectural, — who has rendered that practical which was problematical; safe, which was dangerous, and subservient, which was unmanageable and intractable, — is the true benefactor and rightful discoverer.

The Physician should remember this in his researches at the bedside, as he carefully and cautiously administers the New Remedies. He who discovered the remedy deserves the credit of a discoverer; but he who demonstrated its useful qualities,—who discovered the wonderful virtues which lie hid beneath its geometrical crystals,—is deserving of a

higher name than a mere discoverer. The first deserves our admiration, but the second has earned our gratitude; and while the one has merited a monument of marble, which time may finally crumble away, the other has earned a wreath of laurel, which the passage of time only makes the more verdant.

To discover a new remedy requires patient investigation, associated with a thorough knowledge of chemical laws. To apply this remedy to the removal of disease requires also an astuteness of intellect second to no other, and associated likewise with closeness of observation, with boldness and caution, and a happy faculty of instinctively arriving at conclusions from the most hidden and obscure premises. And, above all, it requires that the investigator be free from the tyranny of medical creeds; and that he shall have reached that intellectual advancement where original and independent thought is substituted for the *ipse dixit* of the pretentious learned.

Those new substances which we introduce to the reader generally present themselves as crystals and fluids. Amorphous substances are more likely to be devoid of purity, especially if they are at all susceptible of crystallization. If the acids are fluids, their salts, if crystallizable, are, as a general thing, to be preferred. To insure perfect purity (and no substance should be administered except it be chemically pure), recrystallization is necessary. This process is frequently to be repeated. In the fluids, such as those belonging to the Ether series, frequent rectification is necessary. In a word, no pains should be spared to insure perfect purity. It is not at all pleasant for us to say that the greater number of remedial agents now prepared for the profession are very får from being pure, or are really what they pretend to be. In many cases where offensive amorphous substances, or pulverized extracts, really are put upon the public, beautiful and pure crystals could be obtained by a thoroughly competent chemist; or, if not crystallizable substances, such as may be devoid of the offensiveness of too many of these preparations. We shall not make any attempt at method in presenting

these (it is to be hoped) future useful remedies, but shall confine ourself to those which, in our humble judgment, present the most likelihood of medicinal usefulness. These substances, it should be likewise mentioned, are not all entirely new to medicine; but while some have never attracted the attention of the profession, others have gone into desuetude, through either a want of proper investigation, or through the mal-administration of those incompetent to institute such delicate investigations.

Many years ago, when we were in the habit of drinking coffee, we frequently had our attention directed to the peculiar effect this substance exerted upon the brain. fluid were taken very strong, as is made by the French in New Orleans, it very quickly and promptly produces Hemiopia; and, aside from the seriousness of tampering with such an agent upon a very nervous temperament, produces the most ludicrous effects. This led us to suspect (having some faith in similia similibus curantur) that the active principle of coffee might be effectually administered for Hemicrania, and other similar diseases. That Caffeine is a powerful nervous stimulant there is no denying; and, while it stimulates the nervous system, its administration does not result in that after prostration too characteristic of some other remedies. CAFFEINE, as the reader is aware, is a nitrogenous principle, derived from coffee, also from tea, and from the leaves of the guarana officinalis, and in the ilex paraguayensis: chocolate is also said to contain a small quantity of it; but pure Java coffee is the richest in this principle.* To prepare pure caffeine, take quicklime, 2 lbs; water, q. s. (to form a hydrate), and add raw coffee, bruised, 10 lbs. Put into a displacement apparatus, and allow alcohol of 80 per cent. to percolate through it, until the fluid has abstracted all the caffeine. Next, distil the fluid; wash the residuum with warm water to remove the oil, and evaporate until a crystalline mass is obtained. These crystals are the caffeine. They are purified by dissolving in hot

^{*} Some writers say that gunpowder tea contains the most of it.

alcohol. They are soluble in 100 parts of cold water, but freely so in hot water. They taste bitter, and are feebly basic. With sulphuric and hydrochloric acids, they form crystallizable salts. With the Bi-chloride of Platinum, and the Ter-chloride of Gold, they form splendid double salts. Liebig has proved a great similarity, but not identity of composition, between caffeine and taurine, one of the constituents of the bile. He draws the inference, that caffeine assists in the production of bile, and that thus the process of respiration is assisted. As caffeine undoubtedly acts upon the system, not only as a nervous stimulant, but exerts the peculiar effect of rendering the system less susceptible to exertion, it may be that it effects this purpose through the power it may possess of arresting partially the metamorphosis of the tissues. This peculiar effect is strongly characteristic of cocoa, and the same effect may be attributable to caffeine.

We believe that caffeine (and its salts) is destined to become a valuable medicinal agent; for its action upon the nervous system is so marked, exerting such happy effects upon it when prostrated by physical or mental disease, that its service will become indispensable. It is true, that the infusion of coffee now prepared for the table exerts the partial effect of caffeine; but this substance is better administered, when indicated, as a remedy. That the constant habit of coffee-drinking is deleterious, and dangerous to nervous persons, there is no doubt. The people begin to comprehend this; and the decreased importation of this pernicious article of commerce is proof that other less dangerous beverages are taking its place. Coffee, it would be well to remark, contains, besides caffeine, a narcotic principle which exerts upon susceptible persons a very pernicions It is this principle, and not caffeine, which is exerting such irreparable injury among the people. Tea contains none of this narcotic principle; hence tea is less injurious as a beverage than coffee, as in this latter substance we get almost entirely the effects of caffeine.*

^{*} The same substance in tea is called Théine.

THE CHLORO-HYDROSALICYLATES.

Chloro-hydrosalicylic acid may be prepared by acting on Hydride of Salicyle with chlorine, in the cold. The product must be purified by dissolving it in hot alcohol, and crystallization. It occurs in tabular crystals, odorless, and of a pearly lustre. They are insoluble in water, but freely so in alcohol, ether, or alkaline fluids. They are fusible and volatile. The vapor condenses under the form of small needle-crystals of pure whiteness. They taste bitter and pungent and with an odor disagreeable to some persons, but quite agreeable to others. These crystals are acid, and form with the bases, beautiful salts, which no doubt, experience will prove to possess valuable medicinal qualities.

The Chloro-Hydrosalicylate of Potassa is a beautiful crimson salt, presenting a pink color if not seen through too great a bulk of the crystal. It occurs in small scales, very soluble in water. Those of Baryta and of Barium occur in beautiful yellow crystals. Many of these salts are very beautiful, and from their composition, may prove of great benefit in medicine. Salicyle is a compound radical; it forms the basis of the salicyle-compounds, or salicyle-series. It has not yet been isolated. The Hyduret of Salicyle, or more properly the Hydride of Salicyle, is a natural product, but is prepared artificially. It is then known by the name of Hydro-Salicylic, or Salicylous Acid. The natural product is the volatile oil of meadow-sweet. The Hydride of Salicyle may be obtained in the preparation of Populine. This latter is a crystallizable substance, neutral but formerly thought to be an alkaloid. It is found associated with salicine, in the bark of the root of the populus tremula or Aspen. It is prepared by making a strong decoction which must be set aside, and as it cools the crystals form. They are dissolved in alcohol, discolored with animal charcoal, and again crystallized. If they are not now perfectly pure, they must again be dissolved and re-crystallized. The POPULINE as thus prepared, resembles salicine, both in appearance and solubility, but unlike the latter, it has a sweet taste. If it is

treated with acids it is converted into benzoic acid, grape sugar, and saliretine. But, if heated with Bichromate of Potassa and acid, it is oxidized into the *Hydride of Salicyle*. This substance in its pure crystallized state, will no doubt prove highly beneficial, being tonic, stomachic and febrifuge.

The volatile oil of the spiraea ulmaria is really salicylous acid. It is a colorless, oily, inflammable liquid. It may be prepared artificially from salicine, by dissolving one part of the latter substance in 10 parts of distilled water, adding one part of *Bichromate of Potassa* in powder, and $2\frac{1}{2}$ parts of sulphuric acid, diluted with 4 times its weight of water. Apply a gentle heat, effervescence ensues, after which the heat must be increased, and the mixture distilled. The product furnishes us with one of the triumphs of modern chemistry, —the production of a natural substance by artificial means; for it is identical in every way with the natural It is the hydride of salicyle, or oil of meadow-sweet. termed by some chemists, the salicylous acid. It is of a yellow color, odor very fragrant, and slightly soluble in water. If a solution of sesquisalt of iron be added to this water, containing the hydride of salicine, a deep violet color is at once produced. It boils at 385° F., and its sp. gr. is 1.172. There is no doubt but that it has proved a valuable medicinal agent, for it has been used for this purpose, but whether by the "Regulars" or by others, we are not aware. But that its virtue, in the proper disease, has been thoroughly tested, is doubtful. In the hands of the enlightened Eclectics, these salts may, no doubt, prove of great value.

The Chloro-hydrosalicylic acid when dry ammoniacal gas acts upon it, forms fine, yellow crystals, very iridescent and beautiful. These are termed CHLOROSAMIDES. They are sparingly soluble in water, but soluble in alcohol and in hot ether. Hot alcohol will decompose them. The ethereal solution deposits the chlorosamide in the form of most beautiful crystals. These may prove a valuable remedial agent. Their beauty and delicacy of form and color, their composition, and their stability, highly recommend them to the profession.

CHLORO-PHENESIC ACID.

This acid and its analogue form, with their bases, a series of most beautiful salts. The acid is prepared by saturating with chlorine gas the hydrated oxide of phenyle, or those portions of crude coal-oil whose boiling-point is between 360° and 400° F. It is then distilled, in the open air. The first and last portions should be rejected. The product is again treated with chlorine, when the whole will become solid. The crystals are dissolved in a hot, dilute solution of ammonia, and, as the solution cools, the crystals of chlorophenesate of ammonia make their appearance. may be procured from this salt by dissolving it in water, decomposing with hydrochloric acid, well washed and distilled. when the pure acid crystals are obtained. themselves as very delicate, colorless, silky needles. are very fusible and volatile at common temperatures. They taste pungent, are sparingly soluble in water, but freely soluble in alcohol and ether. The salts are very beautiful and perfect ones, and are readily made. They may prove of great value as curative agents. By acting on this acid with chlorine, in great excess, another acid is formed; it is called chloro-phenesic acid. This analogous acid forms another series of beautiful salts which, no doubt, will act upon the system in an entirely different manner from the others.

These two systems of salts are an example of the various changes, and illustrate the endless series of substances which organic chemistry presents to us. Two compounds may contain precisely the same number of atoms of carbon, hydrogen, oxygen, and nitrogen, but still they may not have the least resemblance to each other.

These contrasting properties and appearances are due to the manner in which the substances are built up. One substance may be formed from the ammonia type, and the other from the water type; and thus the two substances, having different radicals, are entirely different in their constitution. Modern organic chemistry is full of these instances; and the time (at least a portion of it) of all enlightened physicians should be devoted to the study of that branch of physics which involves those substances they necessarily must administer as curative agents.

NEW YORK, July, 1866.

Enuresis.

BY C. EDWIN MILES, M. D.

I READ with interest Dr. O. E. Newton's article in the June number of the Review on "Nocturnal Incontinence of Urine." I have not prescribed his treatment, but am confident that it must be a valuable remedy for the disease for which it is recommended; yet as far as possible, I prefer not to use the Cantharides, as its action is quite uncertain, there being a peculiar susceptibility on the part of many patients, amounting often to an idiosyncrasy.

So frequent are these cases of Nocturnal Incontinence of Urine, annoying and disgusting the patient, and often perplexing the physician from their intractability, that I will give the formula that I have used in the treatment for Enuresis, and especially for Nocturnal Incontinence of Urine, for the past four years, with very excellent results. I have also used it with good success where there have been mucous and gleety discharges from the urethra.

B Fld. Ext. Uva Ursi, 3 xij Tinct. Ferri Chloridi, 3 ij. Tinct. Nucis vomicae, 3 j.

M. Sig. Teaspoonful in tablespoonful of cold water at 3 and 9 P. M.

The quantities of the Tr. Ferri and Tr. Nux Vomica in the formula should be varied according to the age and condition of the patient; so of the frequency of the doses, but I have always found it well to give the remedy twice during the afternoon and evening.

There are directions to be given relative to the quantity and kind of drink taken, the evacuations of the bladder and the solubility of the bowels, that no physician will fail to give due attention to.

Keeping in mind the pathology of the disease, the well known therapeutic action of each ingredient of the formula indicates what might theoretically be hoped from it. More than twenty cases might be reported of the practical value of the remedy.

One—the worst case treated—we give as an illustration:
John M. had suffered from Nocturnal Incontinence of Urine from his fourth to his thirteenth year, and had been treated by many physicians without success. As he grew older the difficulty increased, till he became a nightly nuisance to himself. When called to treat him I prescribed the formula above. It was pursued three times a day—11 A. M., 3 and 8 P. M., for three weeks, then for two weeks at 3 and 9 P. M., and he was cured and remains so to this day. Was discharged May, 1865.

Many persons affected with enuresis, and especially with Nocturnal Incontinence, are infested with ascarides; and in several cases where I have found the two difficulties associated, on the removal of the ascarides the Incontinence has ceased without any further treatment; and had they not been removed, we doubt if any treatment would have benefited the Incontinence.

ROXBURY, MASS., July, 1866.

Mercury, Antimony, Lead and Arsenic as Permanent, Irritating Causes of Disease.

BY EDWIN FREEMAN, M.D.,

Professor of Anatomy in the Eclectic Medical College of N. Y.

The human body, according to Prof. C. G. Lehmann, M. D., is found by analysis, to contain two great classes of constituents: Organic or vegetable and inorganic or mineral. Of the

former there are the non-nitrogenized acids; as—volatile fat acids; fixed fat acids; succinic acid group; oily fat acids; Benzoic acid group; Lactic acid group; conjugate acids; the nitrogenized basic and neutral bodies; nitrogenized paired acids; the non-nitrogenized bases or haloid bases; the lipoids; the non-nitrogenized neutral bodies] or carbo-hydrates and animal coloring matter. Also histogenetic substances of which there are the protein bodies—as, albumen, fibrin, syntonin or musculin, casein, globulin, hemato-crystallin; and proximate derivations of the protein bodies, as, glutein yielding substance, chondrin yielding substance, and substance of the elastic tissue, elasticin. Of the second great class (inorganic), there are, 1st—those which subserve principally mechanical purposes in the organism. stored away in the solid tissues, which owe to them, at least in part, their solidity and capability of resistance. are—phosphate of lime, carbonate of lime, phosphate of magnesia, fluoride of calcium and silicic acid. 2d.—Those which participate actively in the metamorphoses of tissue. They thus operate chemically, and in this way affect many functions necessary to life. They are hydrochloric acid, chloride of sodium, carbonate of soda, phosphates of the alkalies, iron, water. 3d.—Those which have either accidentally entered the organism, or, resulting from the metamorphoses which occur in the living body, are only to be regarded as excretory They are, sulphates of the alkalies, carbonate of magnesia, manganese, arsenic, copper, lead, salts of ammonia, sulpho-cyanide of sodium. Of the mineral substances of the body, therefore, the largest proportion are used in building up and consolidating the structures, and affecting in various ways, the functions of life. The others, excepting manganese, arsenic, lead and copper, occur as accidental products of the metamorphoses of tissue, to be excreted as soon as possible. Manganese exists only in very small quantities, and probably gets in with the iron, with which it is so much associated; and arsenic, lead and copper are foreign substances, only existing in the body, when introduced accidentally with the food or otherwise, and thrown off by the liver when they come with-

in the range of its excretory influence, while mercury and antimony do not occur at all. When they are not excreted they remain as local irritating agents wherever deposited, producing more or less general disturbance, according as the quantity is great or small. How great then, is the irritating effect when introduced through the heroic doses given, as is very commonly done, by the Allopathic physicians of the present day? Of those foreign and accidental mineral substances, there are four of them, mercury, antimony, lead and arsenic, which have been and are, in most extensive use, as medicines, among the Allopathic physicians, whose deleterious effects on the human system we will endeavor to show, are such as warrant us in discarding them from the list of medicinal agents. And we are especially warranted in so doing, since there are agents in common use by us that accomplish all the curative results that are expected from The local effects, primary and secondary, of mercury, as in salivation, loosening of teeth, swollen tongue, ulceration of cheeks and of the bones and swelling of the bones, together with rheumatism, neuralgia, &c., are so common and well known, that they only need enumerating to call attention to them. So much has been written on the injurious and deadly effects of the drug, by those who uphold its use, that no further experiments need be tried, to furnish proof of the truthfulness and honesty with which we carry on this crusade against it, but by their own words we will condemn them. Is its use being abolished? By a few of the most liberal among the allopathic ranks it is being laid aside, quietly, without speaking a word against it, for fear of proscription; but the great majority of them pretend that they can see no good beyond The people will not have it, it they can help it, for they are the sufferers by its use. But in severe sickness they are deceived by the assertion that they cannot get well without it. They know well enough the deadly effects of mercury, sometimes destroying in a short time the features of the lovely, robbing them of those pearly ornaments of the mouth, and under the plea of curing them, drugging their systems with an agent that forever makes them walking barometers, the frail tenement of a constantly complaining spirit, whose earnest longing is to be delivered from its body, that it may go to its resting-place.

Of the different preparations of mercury, the (hydrargyri chloridum mite, U.S.), or hydrargyri proto-chloridum, commonly known as calomel, is deemed the least noxious and most safe to use; and is consequently prescribed without limit, and sometimes in enormous doses, in cases where there is any actual or even seeming derangement of the liver, and as an alterative in many other cases. The bichloride of mercury (hydrargyri bichloridum or corrosivum), corrosive sublimate, is a virulent and caustic poison, —dangerous to administer in doses larger than 1 of a gr., from its irritating and caustic properties. It is liable to be produced in the system from the protochloride by the union of that agent with one equivalent of chlorine in the stomach, taken from the hydrochloric acid, chloride of sodium, chloride of ammonium, calcium, or magnesium, — all of which, according to Lehmann, exist there. That this conversion can take place thus, is proven by the experiments of M. Mailhe and others. He gives, as the conclusions that resulted from his experiments, that —

1st, "The protochloride of mercury, in presence of hydrochlorate of ammonia, or of the chlorides of sodium and potassium, and of pure distilled water, is changed partly into deutochloride of mercury, and into metallic mercury. This change takes place at the temperature of the human body, and even at common temperatures, and demands but a few moments' contact to be effective. . . .

2d, "It is to the change of calomel into corrosive sublimate and metallic mercury, under the influence of sea salt, and the salts of ammonia, which we know to exist in the liquids of the alimentary canal, that we must attribute the pathological phenomena of mercurial salivations, from the administration of calomel. . . .

3d, "As the quantity of corrosive sublimate formed can be only in proportion to the amount of alkaline chlorides which are contained in the viscera, those persons who eat large quantities of common salt, everything else being equal, should be more susceptible than others, when under a mercurial course of medicine."

It is from this, evident, that we are never able to determine what amount of chlorine is liable to be set free in the stomach, or in the rest of the alimentary canal. Thus, when large doses of calomel are given, sufficient corrosive sublimate may be produced for a fatally poisonous effect upon the patient — and many such cases are reported, — or a less corrosive effect; the caustic acting by virtue of its affinity for albumen, fibrin, and other constituents of the tissues. No wonder, then, that cases of the violent action of this agent are numerous enough to fill volumes with records of ulcerations of the mouth, gums, cheeks, throat and stomach, and all their concurrent and subsequent suffering. metallic mercury produced by the conversion in the system, lodges in the tissues of the different organs, and may be the nuclei for tubercles in the lungs, as proved by the experiments of Moulin; or they may act as a mechanical irritant, each globule being a centre of irritation in the lungs, liver, brain, or any of the viscera: in the fibrous tissues, producing the severest forms of rheumatism; and, in the bones, producing sub-acute inflammation of those dense structures which may result in ulceration, and finally, in death of the Calomel destroys the coagulability of the blood, and its power of nourishing and building up the tissues; yet, in spite of this and the great array of harmful effects, it is given to the infant of a few months, and to the aged of fourscore, whose vitality is fast waning away, and who but lingers on this side of the grave. I have said but little of what might be said of its injurious effects; but, I hope, enough to show that it is a fruitful source of disease, and that its use entails great misery on our race. It should not be allowed a place in our Materia Medica. Dr. Hammond, when Surgeon-General of the army, perceived the baneful effects resulting from its use in the army, and, by his celebrated circular, No 6, ordered calomel and antimony to be expunged from the supply-table.

Podophyllin, the pure medicinal principle of the Podophyllum peltatum, first discovered and introduced into practice by the Eclectics, is an agent that is eminently valuable for its cathartic and cholagogue, as well as alterative properties, and has no qualities to render it objectionable, like those of calomel. It is used with the most marked success in all cases where those effects are desired, —in all the bilious and periodic fevers, as well as continued fevers, of the country. It has been used so long, and is so well known by Eclectics, to the utter exclusion of mercurials, that it is preposterous to say that it is inefficient. It is reliable, and is being adopted into the practice of many of the liberal-minded of other branches of the profession. It is used extensively, in combination with other articles, according to the effect desired to be produced. Let us not relax our opposition to the use of the mercurial agents, for the crusade against them is a holy one against a common enemy of our race.

Antimony, in the form of the Potassio-Tartrate, or tartar emetic, has been, in connection with venesection, the almost exclusive means of treatment in pneumonic and bronchial inflammations. It has entered into composition with other agents in the treatment of a great variety of other diseases whenever it was necessary to produce a free action from the mucous surface of the stomach and bowels, or bronchial tubes, diaphoresis, emesis, or to reduce the volume and force of the circulation. It consequently has been given in great quantities, in varied doses, from the 1/2 of a gr. to many drachms in 24 hours, and many ounces in the course of the disease, as described by Rason. It has sometimes occasioned death. "In one case a scruple, in another 27 grains, nearly caused death. In a third, 40 grains caused death."— Orfila, Toxicology Gen. "The symptoms, in the latter case, were vomiting, hypercatharsis, convulsions, epigastric pain, Death occurred four days tumefaction and delirium. after the ingestion of the poison."—Pareira. But when such serious results do not follow, the admission of such large quantities of such a deleterious agent into the system is to be highly deprecated, from the remote effects produced

upon the organism, which, though not so readily recognized and traced to their source as those of mercury, are nevertheless almost as baneful.

In a paper presented to the Academy of Sciences, translated from the French, "On the Permanent Retention of Antimony in the Living Organs," the author speaks of the passage of antimony through the system, when given in the form of an emetic, and its permanent retention in the different organs. He says, "We have every day reports of cases of poisoning, of protracted duration: with equal care should we chronicle the facts which tend to demonstrate that a very minute quantity of any metallic substance which, once introduced into the tissues, remains permanently there, and may be transmitted, as we shall see, from the female to its young." He gives a resumé of experiments made on six dogs, fed with the Tartar Emetic, so mixed with their food that they got daily a few grains of it. They were kept up and fed in such a manner that they could bear a long confinement. In those dogs which died during the first week of the experiment, the antimony was found in the liver, heart, muscles, the coats of the intestines, and the lungs; the brain, bones, and fat were entirely free from any trace of it. At the end of 15, 20, and 25 days, the amount of the metal in each organ was found In the liver, there was about six times as to be the same. much as in the same quantity of the other tissues. experiments were made with six dogs, treated in the same manner, and kept up many months after the use of the antimony. Four of the dogs recovered by degrees their proper healthy condition. The other two became greatly emaciated, and died within a few days of each other. The liver of the first dog was friable, and remarkable for its size, being in the ratio to the body of 1 to 12, the usual ratio is 1 to 24 -10. Antimony was found in the liver, muscular flesh, coats of the intestines, lungs, brain — all seemed filled with it. The second dog, during the last few days, was afflicted with a continual nervous tremor; the hinder legs were affected in a similar manner. They would all of a sudden give way, and his progress would be instantly arrested.

After death, antimony was found in a larger proportion in the brain than in any other organ. Of the other four, one got away. The second, after six weeks, died from accident; and the metal was found mostly in the liver and fat, and particularly in the bones. The third dog, killed 3½ months after taking the antimony, it was found in liver, bones, and other tissues; but much the largest quantity in the fat. The fourth dog, killed after four months' trial, the metal was found accumulated in the liver and bones.

These experiments may be of immense value in furnishing the key to the cause of a great many ailments, both of nerves, liver, and other organs, of a chronic character, whose persistence seems often to baffle the well-directed efforts of the most skilful medical men. Harmful and dangerous as this agent is, it is still used in great quantities, notwithstanding we have veratrum viride to control the circulation, Lobelia, Ipecac, Sanguinaria to produce emesis, and vegetable agents to operate in the required manner on the alimentary canal.

Lead is another agent highly objectionable, on account of its tendency to irritate and impair the integrity of the nervous tissues, and seriously hinder the natural functions dependent on them. It is usually administered in the form of an acetate, as an astringent, and hæmostatic, but it is very liable to be converted into a carbonate, and in either form may produce unlooked-for complications. colorations of teeth and mucous membrane of mouth, lead taste, breath, and odor, lead jaundice and lead emaciation are the primitive effects of the absorption of that metal. Graver and more dangerous consequences are lead colic, lead arthralgia, lead paralysis, which may come on after one or more attacks of lead colic, soon or a long time after its introduction into the system; and lead encephalopathy, including the delirious forms, comatose forms, convulsive forms, and delirious and convulsive forms. An analysis of an encephalopathic subject, by Devergie, shows that there was found in the stomach, 0.030 grammes; lungs, traces only; kidneys, 8 oz. & 13, there were 0.002 of a gramme. Gall-bladder, and bile, 0.004 of a gramme. Urinary bladder, 0.005 of a gramme; muscle 1 lb., there were 0.026 grammes; blood, 7 oz. 0.050 grammes; teeth, incrusting matter, 2 grs. 0.001 of a gramme; fæces, 0.023 of a gramme. The quantity in the intestines, so far as ascertained, was enormous. Todd, in his remarks on gout and rheumatism, relates the case of a house painter who died in King's College Hospital. He had colic, paralysis, and cerebral disturbance, the effect of lead. On autopsy, extensive tuberculous inflammation, beginning around points, as centres; in many of these, in the congestive stage, were minute blackish points suspected to be lead. On chemical examination, lead was found in great quantity in the brain, and in still larger amount in the lungs. It has been found in the brain of a lead epileptic in the paralyzed extensors of the hand, and in the liver and urine of lead patients. When it is diffused so extensively in all the vital organs, and produces such great and serious mischief, who but the reckless and unscrupulous would continue to administer it, especially since we can control profuse discharges and the worst forms of hemorrhage without its use.

Arsenic, also, is an agent which Eclectics dispense with altogether, on account of its highly injurious and poisonous qualities. Pereira says, that so powerful a poison requires to be employed with great caution, and to have its effects carefully and attentively watched, for it has on more than one occasion proved fatal when used as a medicinal agent. It is absorbed and permeates every part of the body, and has been found in post-mortem examinations in the lungs, liver, heart, and brain. On the stomach and alimentary canal it produces violent irritation, with vomiting and purging, which soon leads to the death of the person, if the poison is not quickly removed or neutralized. If used in the doses in which it only can be used, it soon begets a dropsical condition of the body (ædema arsenicalis). It disorders the heart, as indicated by anxiety at the præcordia, and quick, irregular pulse; it disorders the lungs, as known by the local pain, cough, etc.; it disorders the nervous system, as indicated by the headache, giddiness, wandering pain, impaired sensibility

of the extremities, and delirium and coma of the cerebral affection; and the feebleness and lassitude, trembling of the limbs, paralysis and tetanic symptoms of the true spinal or excito-motory system. It is equally dangerous when employed externally. M. Roux, the celebrated surgeon of Paris, lost a patient, a girl, by death, whose breast he had amputated for scirrhus, and applied to the raw surface an arsenical paste. Desgranges relates the case of a girl, who rubbed her head with arsenical ointment for vermin, the skin being She was violently poisoned, the head and face swelling and being covered with scabs. She had high fever, delirium, and vomiting, distress at the præcordia, but ultimately recovered, losing her hair. It has been recommended and has been used in intermittent fever, and diseases of the skin, but there are other antiperiodics that can be better depended upon in all conditions, and other less harmful agents that can be used to remove cutaneous diseases. Quinine and its combinations, the sulphate of cinchona, and other preparations of the Peruvian bark, prunin, cerasein, gelseminum, ferrocyanide of iron, capsicum, etc., are all valuable antiperiodic agents; while the phytolacca dec. stillingia sylv. sarsaparilla, iris versicolor, corydalis form., iodide of potassium, syrup of iodide of iron, etc., have a well established reputation in the latter class of diseases.

I have been thus particular in speaking of those four poisonous mineral agents, for independent of other cardinal principles, we are known and distinguished from the allopathic school for not using them.

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Diphtheria: its Causes and Treatment.

BY O. E. NEWTON, M. D.

DIPHTHERIA is a zymotic disease, characterized by a highly febrile condition of the body, intensely inflammatory condition of the mucous membrane of the throat and fauces, accom-

panied with a greater or less degree of pseudo-membranous exudation. The physician's attention is called to what is termed a sore throat. Upon examination, we find a part, or the whole lining membrane of the fauces highly congested, with Diphtheritic patches dotted over the entire surface. a specific inflammatory exudation, characteristic of this discase, which, when removed, leaves the surface abraded, and to some extent ulcerated; and there may be below this a continuous pseudo-membranous organization, which may be rapidly filling up the larynx and fauces. Associated with these symptoms, you will find the patient generally very restless, and suffering very much. The pain seems to affect the whole system, particularly the back and head. The intensity of this pain I have looked upon as an indication of the probable violence of the attack. I believe this disease to be simply the result of a poisoned condition of the blood, and the local condition of the throat, the effect of concentration of this poison, and that it belongs to the same class and order of diseases as scarlet-fever, measles, erysipelas, small-pox, and many other inflammatory diseases, — they all depending upon a poisoned state of the fluids, but variably developed and concentrated by modifying circumstances incidental to the law which gives disease its particular typeor location. The cause of this abnormal condition of the blood is, or may be, attributable to one condition at one time, and to a different one at another. But most frequently it is the result of what is termed a cold, or when the system has been exposed to a too rapid or irregular temperature, resulting in a sudden check of perspiration, a suppressed action of the kidneys, liver, and lungs preventing the natural excretion of effete matter from the system. The fluids are now charged with this poisonous matter, consequent to which follow the general symptoms associated with this disease, fever, general aching of the whole system, congestion of the whole mucous surfaces of the throat, diphtheritic patches, and perhaps pseudo-membranous organization.

Treatment.—Believing Diphtheria to be depending wholly upon a poisoned condition of the blood, and this poisoned

condition to be a sequel to an obstruction of the natural outlets of the skin, kidneys, liver and lungs, — the indications are:—

First, to restore the proper functional action of these organs; Secondly, to use the most proper antidote to this poisoned condition of the blood; at the same time, use remedies most appropriate to remove the effect of this condition of the blood,—diphtheritic patches, congestion, pseudomembranous organization, &c. To induce a healthy action of the skin, I give the Diaphoretic Powder, one or two grains every one or two hours, in an infusion of asclepias tuberosa and napeta cataria, the proportion of two of the former and one of the latter. To remove obstruction of the liver, I give the following:—

P. Fl. Ext. Taraxaci,

" " Leptandræ, aa 3 ss.
" " Podophylli, 3 iij.

Aq. menth. pip., 3 ss.

Syr. Simp., 3 iij.

M. Dose—One teaspoonful every two hours, until the bowels are opened freely. I also prescribe a stimulating diuretic.

B. Spts. Ætheris nit., 3 iv.
Potassæ nit., 3 ij.
Aquæ puræ, 3 i.
Syr. Simp., 3 ij.

M. Dose—One teaspoonful every one or two hours, until the kidneys act freely.

Having restored the above organs to a healthy action, I now begin with strong doses of chlorine, associated with active tonics, to autidote the poisoned condition of the blood.

P. Tr. ferri chloridi, 3 iv.

Quiniæ sulph., grs. xx.

Aquæ menth. pip., 3 iss.

Syr. Simp., 3 iv.

M. Dose—One teaspoonful every two hours, taken in a little water.

I continue this treatment in this way, until the mem-

branous organization is broken up, and the diphtheritic ulceration is healed. If the patient is very bad, I use a gargle every two or three hours, made as follows:—

B. Potassæ chloratis, 3 i. Aquæ puræ, 3 ij.

If the mouth cannot be opened wide enough to gargle the throat, I use —

R. Potasse chloratis pulv., Sacch. alb., "aa 3 i.

Place about one-third of a teaspoonful in the mouth, and allow it to dissolve; to be repeated every one or two hours. The effect of this treatment has been very favorable in my hands. The congestion will rapidly become less; the diphtheritic patches will rapidly disappear, and if there be a pseudo-membranous deposit, it will be desquamated en masse, leaving the whole palatine arch perfectly raw. When this change takes place the patient is at once relieved, when the remedial means may be reduced to one half the quantity and frequency of use. The indications are now fulfilled, obstructions removed, and the poison completely eliminated from the blood. The congestion having disappeared, and the diphtheritic patches removed, the local manifestations produced by the poison have healed. The therapeutical effect of the treatment is, that the chlorine antidotes the poison; quiniæ and iron promptly sustain the system against the great depression incident to this disease; the potassæ and sugar and gargle act as a styptic to the ulcers, and allay congestion, and the escharotic power of the Tr. ferri chloridi desquamates the membrane. In addition, I would recommend extraordinary carefulness on the part of the patient against a too-early exposure of the system, which may prevent the too frequent occurrence or liability to relapse; for, in my opinion, there is no disease, except cholera, that so weakens the system in so short a space of time, as does this disease.

CINCINNATI, O.

PERISCOPE.

The Use and Abuse of Poultices.—By B. W. RICHARDSON, M. D. (British Medical Journal, May 12, 1866.)

In his lectures recently delivered at the College of Physicians, Dr. Richardson made the following remarks on the subject of poultices. "The application of moist heat in the form of poultices to suppurating parts requires, I think, remodelling, in order that it may be placed on a true scientific basis. I am afraid that the common recommendation, 'You must put on a poultice,' is too often among us all an easy way of doing something about which we are not quite sure, and concerning which it were too much trouble to think long. From what I have recently observed, I fear that mischief is often done by a poultice, which might well be avoided. The people have always a view that a poultice is applied to 'draw,' as they say—a term in truth which, though very unsophisticated, is in a sense a good term, for it means what it says. The question for us is, whether it be sound practice to carry out as a general rule the 'drawing' process, either by fomentation or by poultice.

"When a part is disposed to suppurate, the first step in the series of changes is an increased flow of blood through the capillary surface, followed by obstruction, and thereupon by an excess of sensible heat derived from the friction that is set up. Then follows transudation of liquor sanguinis into the connective tissue, and its transformation, under the influence of heat, into what is called purulent fluid. When to the part in this state we apply moist heat, we quicken suppuration, mainly by upholding the temperature: at the same time, we secure the transference of water from the moist surface into the fluids of the inflamed part, by which tension of tissues is produced, and in the end yielding of tissue at the weakest point.

"When the suppurating surface is circumscribed, the rapid induction of the process may be attended with little injury; but when the surface is large and when the exuded

fluid is thrown into loose structures where it can burrow readily, the practice, I think, cannot be good to extend the mischief. Hence, in the treatment of carbuncle and phlegmonous erysipelas, it cannot, I opine, be sound practice in the early stage to apply moist heat. Experience also, not less than principle, warrants this conclusion. In cases of carbuncle, especially, I have of late altogether avoided the application of moist heat in the early stages; and, I feel assured, with good results.

"But when, in the course of local disease, suppuration is actively established and is naturally circumscribed; when the increased temperature of the part has fallen to or below the natural temperature—then the value of moist heat comes on with full force; then the tension which is exerted determines the escape of fluid at the weakest point of the surrounding tissue, and, when the fluid escapes or is liberated by the knife, the escape for a long period is aided by the application of moist heat.

"The continued application of moist heat for a long time after the escape of purulent fluid is again, I conceive, indifferent practice. It sustains discharge; it sets up unhealthy decomposition of fluids; it produces a thickened, soddened condition of skin, most favorable to the production of sinus; and it retards recovery. When a surface is freely open, and suppurating, dry and not moist heat is the remedy. We are in want in these cases of a simple invention; we require something which we can apply as readily as a poultice, which shall keep up the temperature of the part, and at the same time take up moisture, and gently desiccate, without injuring the tissues."

Solvent Treatment of Urinary Calculi.—By WILLIAM ROBERTS, M. D. (Medical Times and Gazette, May 12, 1866.)

Dr. Roberts' paper in the last volume of the Medico-Chirurgical Transactions has excited a good deal of attention. The demonstration which he affords of the possibility of dis-

solving uric acid calculi by a properly pursued and regulated alkaline treatment, constitutes an era in the treatment of these affections. We may state that we have obtained unmistakable success in the treatment of uric acid renal calculus by the large doses of bicarbonate of potash he recommends, and this after the carbonate and citrate of lithia had comparatively failed to produce alleviation of the symptoms. Dr. Roberts has shown that uric acid calculi are susceptible of solution out of the body by the action of alkaline solutions of the salts of potash, and in the body by urine rendered alkaline by the same salts; that the requisite alkalinity of the urine is to be obtained by the administration of citrate, acetate, or bicarbonate of potash, in repeated doses of from forty to sixty grains; that this method of treatment holds out a prospect of success in vesical uric acid calculi which must not be expected from the injection of alkaline solutions into the bladder. With regard to other calculi, he has arrived at the conclusion that oxalate of lime calculi are practically insusceptible to acid and alkaline solvents, but that phosphatic calculi, although insusceptible to the action of alkaline solvents, offer an encouraging prospect for the use of acid injections into the bladder.

Treatment of Delirium Tremens by Capsicum.

A case of delirium tremens treated by Dr. Lyons with capsicum, is related in the Dublin Med. Press and Circular, April 18, 1866. A drachm dose made into a bolus was taken without any difficulty, notwithstanding that some slight burning sensations were felt in the mouth and throat for a time, and a sense of diffused warmth through the stomach and bowels for a brief period subsequently. In less than one hour after the bolus was taken he fell into a quiet sleep, and some three or four hours subsequently awoke, perfectly calm, conscious, and convalescent.

"The results obtained by Dr. Lyons, in the use of this

drug, fully bear out the experience acquired on a far larger scale of observation in the West Indies, and in the Melville Hospital by Dr. Kinnear, Dr. Lawson, and others of his distinguished colleagues in the public service at home and abroad. In the records of the Melville Hospital, not less than seventy to eighty cases are reported to have been successfully treated by the sole use of this drug, in single or repeated doses, ranging from one scruple upwards. No gastric disturbance or other unpleasant symptom has been at any time noticed.

"As a stimulant of great and immediate efficacy, Dr. Lyons considers that its action may be explained by the direct influence it exerts upon the gastric expansions of the vagi, and so indirectly upon the cerebro-spinal centres. The phenomena of the disease he considers to point to a double condition of stimulated excitation and partial paralysis of distinct and perhaps opposite portions of the nervous system.

"For general employment it cannot be doubted that, as pointed out by Dr. Lyons, the use of capsicum offers many advantages over either opium or digitalis. In cases of recurrent delirium tremens associated, as they often are, at a somewhat advanced period of life, with fatty degeneration of the heart, both the latter drugs are very distinctly contra-indicated, and their use has not infrequently been attended with results far from satisfactory, even when free from fatal esult, which has not always been the case."

Chlorate of Quinia.

From the powerful oxidizing and general stimulating agency of chloric acid, and the influence of quinia as a nervine-tonic, Dr. Lyons has been led to the idea of combining these two remedial agents with the view of obtaining a febrifuge medicine of great potency. Each atom of the chlorate will provide, it may be expected, five available atoms of oxygen from the chloric acid, chl. O₅, while in the perchloric acid, each atom contains seven of oxygen, chl. O₇.

From some half-dozen cases in which he has as yet employed this drug, including scarlatina, typhus, the diphtheritic case above mentioned, and low forms of pneumonia, Dr. Lyons has obtained results which so far satisfy him of its efficiency and utility, and he invites the co-operation of his professional brethren in testing the value of this salt of quinia in low pyrexial states.—Dublin Med. Press and Circular, May 30, 1866.

Anasthetic Properties of the Bichloride of Carbon.

Dr. Sansom, in a paper read before the Obstetrical Society of London (Feb. 7, 1866), expressed the opinion that this new anæsthetic would be of great value to the practitioners of obstetrics. Very much as to its constitution and properties had yet to be determined, and more could not be attempted at present than the presenting to the Society a few scattered hints and observations. Dr. Sansom claimed to be the first to describe this body as an anæsthetic in his book on Chloroform, published in May, 1865. It was then called tetrachloride of carbon; it has since been determined to be a bichloride, and Sir James Simpson has suggested for it the convenient term chlorocarbon. The fluid possesses many of the characteristics of chloroform; its odor, however, is more pleasant and less pungent; its density is slightly greater, and its volatility less. It takes a longer time to induce anæs-On the fourth of July, 1864, the author, in conjunction with Dr. John Harley, tried the effect of the inhalation of the new anæsthetic upon a frog. The circulation in the web of the foot was observed by the microscope throughout the process. It was seen to cause a considerable amount of irregular muscular action, and a very decided contraction of the capillary arteries. A state of torpor was then induced for three-quarters of an hour, but reflex action was not wholly abolished. Experiments were made upon dogs and guinea-pigs. In these there was considerable muscular agitation at the outset. Deep anæsthesia was slowly pro-

duced, but, once induced, continued very profound until death. The post-mortem signs were, complete collapse of the lungs and distension of the right side of the heart, so that the organ assumed a globular form. The sensations produced by the inhalation of the bichloride of carbon are at first very agreeable: there is a pleasant sensation of warmth, and, as the author thought, a freedom from the vertigo such as is produced by chloroform. Dr. Sansom has employed it in cases of midwifery. It was readily inhaled: it mitigated the pains, and in one case almost completely abolished them; it did not interfere with consciousness. In reviewing the relative merits of the two anæsthetics, the author considered (1) that chlorocarbon has the advantage over chloroform in its being inhaled with greater comfort; it is not susceptible of decomposition with the formation of deleterious chlorine compounds; and its cost will probably be considerably less. Being much less volatile than chloroform, it will probably be best administered by pouring it upon a sponge wrung out in hot water. (2) It is, during its early stage of action, a powerful stimulant to the circulatory system. It will probably be especially valuable in midwifery, for it abolishes pain without affecting consciousness, and its tendency is certainly to increase muscular action. not advisable to induce deep narcotism by means of this agent. Its profound effects are very persistent, and it is eliminated from the system slowly.—Med. Times and Gaz., March 24th, 1866.

A New Remedy in Gonorrhosa—By J. S. PRETTYMAN, M. D., of Milford, Del.

In July, 1859, while narrowly observing the effects of oil of erigeron administered in a fearful hæmoptysis, I was led to suspect that it would prove a useful remedy in the treatment of gonorrhæa. Acting upon this presumption, I immediately commenced giving it to a patient then under my care, in whose case all the vaunted specifics had most signally failed. He improved at once, and was speedily cured. Since

that date I have prescribed it in about fifty cases, with unvarying success. It arrests the discharge in about 72 hours, and effects a cure in from six to eight days. I do not recommend it as a specific in all cases, but design merely to bring it to the notice of the profession as an exceedingly valuable medicine in this disease. Of course all scientific medical practice is based upon the well-known pathological condition of the structures involved, and this is our unerring guide. When, in recent cases, the urethral inflammation is severe, my plan is to precede the remedy with a full dose of some active hydragogue. A good formula is: R.—Pulv. senna, Dij; pulv. jalapa, Dj; pulv. aromaticus, gr. x. M. Add a gill of boiling water and a teaspoonful of sugar, and, when sufficiently cool, agitate, and swallow at a dose. As soon as this operates, give ten drops of the oil on sugar, and three hours later a full dose of spts. æther. nit. in infus. althea, and so on every three hours alternately until the urethral irritation is allayed. Then leave off the latter, and continue the oil until the cure is complete. If the case is not recent, or there is but little urethral irritation, the oil alone is sufficient.

I have used it also in combination with copaina and other articles, and found such preparations to answer a good purpose, but no better than the oil alone.

The oil which I use is reputed to be that of the Erigeron Canadense; but I presume that from the Philadelphicum is equal, if not superior, for this purpose.—Hays' Journal Medical Science, July, 1866.

Relation existing between the Sense of Temperature, the Sense of Touch, and the Sense of Pain.

The following interesting case of Dr. A. F. Spring is almost unique, and affords a strong confirmation of the opinions of those who think the sensations of temperature, pain, and pressure are conveyed through separate channels, or are perceived by separate centres. The patient was a female, aged sixty, who had long suffered from hypertrophy of the

heart, dyspnœa, and persistent bronchitis. From exposure to cold she became paralyzed, though without loss of consciousness or deviation of the tongue when that organ was protruded. The entire right half of the body, including the head, became insensible to temperature, and to pain, but there was no loss of motor power; the muscular power, in fact, as measured by the dynamometer, being somewhat increased on the affected side. She could feel the slightest touch on the anæsthesiated (?) side, and, when the eyes were closed, she could discover and pick up a pin from the floor. On washing the hands she could distinctly perceive the shock and movement of the water flowing over them, but was quite unable to distinguish whether it was hot or cold. winter she could only perceive the temperature with the left half of the body, and the same when standing near a fire. The normal temperature of the skin on the affected side was maintained in every part, or differed only to the extent of 1° or 2°. Neither the pricks of needles or strong pinching was perceived in the slightest degree. She suffered from neuralgia in the temporal region at night. In consultation with M. Schwann, the author ascertained that there was no diminution in the acuteness of the patient's perception in regard to impressions of weight and of contact. The hand lying prone on a table, and weighted with 500 grammes, readily distinguished the addition or removal of two or three grammes, and when weights were concealed in a cloth, and the amount estimated alternately by the two arms, no difference was remarked. From experiments made in the method suggested by Weber for determining the delicacy of touch by applying the points of compasses, it appeared that there was a considerable diminution of acuteness on the left, or healthy side, but a still more marked diminution on the right side. the eighth day after this consultation the sensibility to pain returned, under the form of a painful formication, and from this time every object appeared hot to the patient, so that she was unable to distinguish ice from water at a temperature of 122°. This state lasted two months, when death occurred from an attack of apoplexy.

In this case the sense of variation of temperature, instead of being associated with tactile sensations, followed the same course as the sensations of pain, disappearing and reappearing, though modified with the latter. The muscular sense was intact, and the sense of touch was only deteriorated in regard to its perception of distance. The cause of these abnormal conditions was evidently seated in the nervous centres.—*Ibid.*, from *Presse Médicale*, 1864, No. 34.

Sympathy between the Ear and Larynx.

- Dr. C. Fox draws attention to the sympathy existing between the auditory canal and the larynx. He sums up a very elaborate paper as follows:—
- "1. The sympathy between the ear and the larynx, as well as the stomach, has been long known, although the majority of recent writers seem to have overlooked it.
- "2. This sympathy is not manifested in every individual, but in about seventeen per cent., and seems to depend on a state of hyperæsthesia of the nerve which supplies the auditory canal.
- "3. The nerve of the ear concerned in the production of this phenomenon cannot be a branch of the vagus, as Romberg and Toynbee have affirmed, but is in all probability a branch of the fifth cranial nerve.
- "4. This sympathy is an example of a reflected or sympathetic sensation, in which the connection between the nerves concerned takes place in the nervous centre.
 - "5. Cases occasionally occur where a cough is solely dependent on the existence of some source of irritation in the auditory canal.
 - "6. The explanation of the sympathy between the ear and the larnyx enables us to understand the mode in which pain of the ear becomes occasionally a symptom of a thoracic aneurism.
 - "One of my chief objects in bringing before the notice of my professional brethren this sympathetic connection is to

introduce to them what may be called an ear-cough, and to strongly advise them to examine the auditory canals in all cases of obstinate cough, where none of the more frequent causes of this symptom can be discovered."—Hays' Journal Medical Science, July, 1866.

Cholera, as witnessed in Cincinnati in 1849-'50.—Extract from a letter to the Cincinnati Daily Times. By O. E. Newton, M. D.

In the month of May, 1849, this d'sease made its appearance as an epidemic in this city—seventeen years after its first appearance, in 1832.

My observations proved that the disease made its appearance, in almost every case, in one of four conditions: vomiting, diarrhœa, cramping, or a condition of collapse.

Though in some cases the first symptom was extreme sinking, followed immediately by a collapsed state—owing to the very rapid progress of the disease, many cases running their course, through all the different stages, in one, two, three, or four hours. The general failure to have made any preparation against the disease, the limited knowledge of proper nursing, confusion, and fright, waiting for a physician, all combined to make the fatality very great.

Owing to the fact that this disease appeared in one of the four stages mentioned; and, furthermore, that the symptoms of each stage were generally mild in the beginning, dictated to me that it was the duty of the patient to obtain from his physician, with full instructions, medicines to meet the first indications of cholera; that it was not only to their interest, but their duty to procure them, as the delay in finding the physician, and procuring the medicines afterward, was the cause of the majority of the deaths.

Believing that the first symptoms yielded quite as readily in the beginning as they would, or had, when associated with other diseases, my patrons obtained medicines against the different stages previously named, on my prescriptions, with full instructions.

FOR VOMITING.

Aq. Menth. Pip.

"Menth. Vir.
"Camphorae, aa. 3j.
Tinct. Opii. Camph. 3 ij.

M. Sig. One teaspoonful every 5, 10, or 15 minutes, as the severity of the symptoms may require, with directions for the patient to lie down and apply mustard over the stomach and bowels.

If attacked with diarrhoa, I ordered a pill to be used of the following:

Pulv. Gum Catechu, grs. xx.

" " Kino, " xv.

" Camphor, " vj.

" Opium, " iv.

" Capsicum, " ij.

M. F. Pill. XV.

B

One pill every 30 to 60 minutes, as the severity of the diarrhosa may indicate, and apply mustard, as for vomiting. If there be much thirst, frequent use of small pieces of ice.

If patient was seized with crampings in the bowels or limbs, I used

Hunn's Life Drops, 3 ss.
Tr. Xanthoxyli Frax. 3 ij.
Opt. Brandy, 3 vj.
Syr. Simp. 3 ij.

M. One teaspoonful every 10, 15, or 20 minutes, with the free use of mustard applications and frictious with the hand or dry flannel, and placing the feet in hot mustard-water; the feet, when taken out, to be kept warm by the use of bottles filled with hot water.

As a result of which, I am happy to say, there was not a death in any such families, in the year of 1850. When called, I had to give but few directions, as the case was already under control.

In contrast to this treatment was that practised by others,—the writing of prescriptions and sending for the medicines, owing to the delay of waiting for the physician, and particularly the consequence of waiting for the medicines after the physician had called, to often furnish treat-

ment not adapted to the case, as the medicines were constantly one stage behind the condition of the patient. That is, when the medicine was ready against vomiting, and the physician now gone, the patient is perhaps in a stage of purging, when the physician is again called, and prescription made against purging, and the medicine is again, with much delay, obtained—the patient was now cramping. Stimulants now being required, the same delay is met with; when obtained, it is too late. Having received no remedy adapted to the condition, the medicines were always one stage behind the disease.

EDITORIAL.

The Board of Health.

This body, created as it was in total disregard of the convictions, remonstrances, and appeals of a large portion of the community, and of the legitimate claims of the Eclectic and Homœopathic schools of medicine by Governor Fenton, has proved to be what every enlightened, unprejudiced, honest man knew it would be, in the character of its professional management. In regard to its rules, supposed to be made for the benefit of the public health, its professional members and advocates openly boast of their intention from the outset, to make such rules and regulations in regard to the treatment of cholera, and in the management of cholera Hospitals, as could not with any regard for professional and self-respect be complied with by the practitioners of the Eclectic and Homœopathic schools. Tricky, inefficient, illiberal, tyrannical, and contemptible as this boasted, indefensible policy is, it is perfectly characteristic of the leaders of the Allopathic school of medicine everywhere, when in power.

The professional regulations of the Board of Health were concocted and brewed in the office of Dr. Willard Parker, long before the Board of Health was created, and every argument, artifice, and trick was used to persuade Governor Fenton, through the Citizens' Association, containing many medical men among its members, which was made a useful cats-paw for these scheming, political Allopa-

thic doctors, to aid in impressing upon his excellency the idea of their immense political consequence and power, and that it was necessary to have the professional part of the Board composed exclusively of allopathic physicians in order to have a "united Board," as no "I am holier than thou" Allopathic practitioner could for a moment think of meeting in a Board composed of members selected different schools of medicine. This reasoning proved successful, and Gov. Fenton to-day knows that in following it, he committed the gravest mistake of his official life; and he knew he had made this mistake before the Board was created, but not until he was fettered by pledges obtained from him by misrepresentation, unscrupulously pressed upon him by the professional leaders, who now glory in a success thus dishonorably won. reasoning about divided councils in the Board has always been used by tyrants and unscrupulous demagogues who had their own ends to serve at the expense of the people. The people had and have a right to representation in the Board of Health in some fair ratio of numbers, respectability, wealth, influence, conviction and professional right, and no just and honorable man will pretend to deny this right. More than half of the tax-paying citizens of New York City, Brooklyn, and the State of New York, who pay their own doctors' bills, employ Eclectic or Homeopathic physicians, and could not be induced to admit mineral, poisoning and blood-letting Allopathic doctors to take charge of themselves or their "loved ones at home," when the Angel of Death hovers near by the couch of sickness and pain.

The result in the treatment of cholera since the Board was created, upon the "iron-bedstead" plan not to be deviated from, promulgated by the professional members of the Board, headed by Dr. Willard Parker, has been a mortality of eight out of every ten cases treated, and will continue to be so, as the plan is at variance with all sound experience, and was adopted more for the purpose of preventing Eclectic and Homeopathic physicians from participating in the treatment of cholera patients in the public hospitals, than for the cure of the victims of this terrible disease.

The wise plan of organization for a Board of Health undoubtedly is, to select a body of high-toned, representative, non-professional men of liberal opinions, sound judgment and first-rate business capacity and habits, who would be wholly free from all small trickery and professional charlatanism. Such a Board would be free to perform its

work and ask the co-operation of all schools of medicine and to avail itself of every valuable suggestion, and could intelligently compare the merits and practical results of the various methods of practice introduced by different practitioners and schools, and thus be enabled to settle upon some sensible and efficient plan of treatment, based upon all of the facts and experience gathered from all authoritative sources. In 1849 Cincinnati was cursed with a Board of Health composed of Allopathic physicians. The tyranny, pretension and inefficiency of its members became so notorious and outrageous, that the people of the city took the matter in hand and forced the City Council to dissolve the Board "vi et armis" and create a non-professional Board, who divided the city into districts, and established hospitals under the exclusive care of Eclectic and Allopathic practitioners, and were thus enabled to judge of the comparative efficiency of the radically different methods of treatment adopted.

The mortality in the Allopathic hospital was over sixty per cent., while in the Eclectic hospital it was only twenty-four per cent., and in private practice only four and one-fourth per cent., and we now assure the Board of Health and the public that the Eclectic practitioners of this city and Brooklyn are prepared to show equally favorable statistics under equally favorable circumstances, and challenge the Board to fulfil Governor Fenton's promise made to us personally that the Eclectics should have a hospital exclusively under their own control for the treatment of cholera patients, in their own way, under the authority and sanction of the Board of Health.

Medical Fees.

The public are generally backward in paying physicians for their services. There are no other class of men who are expected to give their time and labor without regard to compensation. Every other person is paid upon the presentation of his bill; but the medical man, who has devoted the best part of his life in acquiring a knowledge of medical science, and who has to face all kinds of weather, and at all times, and under all circumstances, to minister to the "ailments of flesh," and on whose skill so much depends—he whose duty it is to prolong life at the expense of his own health and comfort—is put off from time to time, as though he, unlike other men,

never needed money. Patients seem to forget that physicians depend on their profession for a living; that they pay house and office rent, coal, gas, water and market bills as other people; the stableman, the bookseller, the merchant, the druggist, the tailor, all have claims on the medical men, and that, as from others, they expect In fact there is, and ever has been, a mistaken idea pretheir pay. valent, upon this subject. The practice of medicine is regarded as a work of charity and not as a means of livelihood. The Physician who would succeed must, as soon as possible, divest the mind of his patrons of this erroneous view of the character of his profession, and give them to understand that he practices his profession solely for the money it produces, and that the better they pay, the less mental labor he will have to perform, which will enable him to devote much more time and consideration to each patient.

The public have no more right to call upon a Physician or Surgeon and demand his services, without paying for them, than they have to call at one of our fashionable dry goods stores and order the proprietor to supply the demands of the public, by a distribution of his goods, without their having been paid for. Patients are always grateful when first relieved, but when a twelvementh of health has intervened, they forget the services of him who was instrumental in restoring that health.

A Word in Season.

THE necessity for exercising the most careful scrutiny in examining and ascertaining the status and character of all who apply for membership in our various State and District Eclectic Medical Societies—can hardly be over-estimated. It will always prove much more difficult to get rid of an undesirable member, and the consequences attending his admission, than it would be to prevent his admission in the outset. Therefore, we would urge upon all engaged in organizing these societies and in filling up their rolls of membership to be exceedingly discreet and wise in all they do in this vital matter.

The rules and tests adopted by the New York State Eclectic Medical Society, seem to be well adapted to secure this result, and we shall be most happy at all times to furnish any Society with a copy of these excellent rules, also any other information that we may have that may be deemed of use to our Eclectic brethren and friends.

No mean or petty spirit should be exercised in making discriminations; but the most manly, generous, and non-exclusive feelings should prevail. Admit a man if he has the right and can present a trustworthy record.

Years of intelligently directed and continued effort will enable us to roll up a mountain from the smallest beginnings. With our present growth as a starting point, we shall by diligence soon pile "Pelion on Ossa," and none can prevent or pull us down.

Professional.

This is a subject which has received too little practical attention. The interference of physicians with each other's patients has always been productive of more embittered feelings than any other one cause. The remark applies alike to all schools of practice, and it is wrong wherever it may exist. The public, caring but little for these peculiar views, often repeat from one physician to another their respective opinions of each, and not unfrequently in a very unfair way, thus leaving a wrong impression where no injury was intended.

There are men in all professions who seem to take a pleasure in misrepresenting—trying to push others down in order to build themselves up. No gentleman will, knowingly, interfere with another physician's business. We have no right to seek the patronage of the patient of another. If a patient, however, of another seeks our services, then it is our duty to serve him. If this rule was strenuously observed, there would be fewer alienations among medical men. Every possible means should be adopted in order to keep up and maintain the greatest harmony and good feeling among the members of the Medical Profession.

The Decker Pianos.

THE reputation of these beautiful instruments is deservedly high for all kinds of excellence—the materials used; the graceful design and finish of every part; the solidity, perfection and durability of workmanship; the admirable adjustment of all details, and for an exquisite rounded sweetness of tone; and the proper relation of every part of the scale absolutely necessary to secure uniformity, delicacy, brilliancy, and power united with the most desirable touch. The Decker Piano Fortes belong to the very highest class of square pianos, and no one purchasing an instrument from the trustworthy and gentlemanly firm of Decker Bros., need have any fears in regard to its character. Within our knowledge nothing better can be found, and but few at all equal in all desirable qualities.

The piano having become so generally a part of modern household economy in this country, it becomes a proper and interesting subject for consideration by the observant, thoughtful, and intelligent physician. The influence it exerts is great, from the fact that it is the medium of introducing harmony and melody into thousands of homes; bringing soothing and peace to the wearied and suffering in body and mind, while adding an atmosphere of harmony more potent to calm discordant mental and moral elements than can be found in any other single cause. The physician who fails to avail himself of its power to assist him in preserving health, and correcting distorted mental conditions, falls far short of the high standard demanded by the most enlightened Eclecticism in medical practice. We have for many years availed ourself of music to produce some of the most delicate and beneficial effects upon morbid mental conditions with the most gratifying success.

Music is medicine to the mind diseased, and through the piano may be made the medium of consolation and rest to thousands of tortured sufferers from shattered nerves.

Oholera Mortality under the "Rule."

WE find the following report of the proceedings of the Board of Health in the city papers of June 2d, 1866.

HOMOSOPATHIC TREATMENT OF THE DISEASE PREVENTED.

In reporting these rules to the Board of Health, Dr. Smith says: "I have been waited upon by a representative of the Homœopathic County Medical Society, to whom I explained the regulations that would be adopted in the medical and general management of the hospital. I have not since had any communication from that society."

It does not appear that these rules have been adopted with the

intention of keeping homeopathic physicians out of the Cholera Hospitals, but it was well known when they were written that they would have that effect. All physicians are compelled to practice by the same rule, and those who cannot practice by this rule are necessarily excluded."

May we now ask the Medical Gentlemen of the Board, Drs. Parker, Stone, and Crane, if those cases of cholera which they report as having taken place at Ward's Island, where out of 31 cases 27 died, were treated according to "the rules" established by the Board of Health through Dr. Smith?

The whole statistical subject at this time is so managed as to keep the public completely in the dark, as to the amount of cholera, and its mortality in the city, as may be seen from the report of proceedings of the Board of Health as found in the city papers of July the 17th, 1866.

THE LARGELY INCREASED MORTALITY.

We learn from the Bureau of Vital Statistics, that during the week ending at 2 p. m. Saturday, July 14, 827 deaths occurred in the City of New York, being an increase of 334 as compared with the previous week. The details of this increase are not yet known, but, with the exception of 44 cases of sunstroke, the excessive mortality of the past week is chargeable to diarrhocal diseases.

Sunstroke 44	Hydrocephalus 24
Effects of heat	Phthisis 69
Congestion of brain 34	Diarrhœal diseases249
Convulsions 62	
Marasmus	
Total deaths	827

The mortality of the week ending July 7 was equivalent to an annual death-rate of 35.98 to the 1,000 inhabitants; that of the week ending on the 14th was equivalent to an annual death-rate of 59.20 to the 1,000.

It will be seen that in this list only 11 cases of cholera are reported, while at the same time it appears that there are 303 deaths unaccounted for. We must insist that inasmuch as the allopathic Physicians have this whole matter under their exclusive control, it is their duty to make a fair showing of the extent of the mortality, and the causes of the same. If they cut off all means by which the community can learn the superior success of the eelectic practice of

Medicine over their own, as they have done, it can be ascribed to no other motive than to cover up their unfortunate success in general, as compared with other schools of Medicine.

To prove that air, water, and food, if allowed to the sick, are better than allopathic Medicine administered in Bellevue Hospital under the leading men of that school, it is only necessary to quote from Dr. Willard Parker's remarks at the Meeting of the Board of Health, reported in the Tribune of June 2d, 1866.

"Ship-fever and cholera are very similar in their mode of propagation. I remember when Bellevue Hospital was crowded with this disease. The beds were full, the floors were covered, and when we went into the building in the morning we could not get along without stepping over their dead bodies. When we could do nothing else we concluded to put up some tents in the open air, and let the poor fellows take their chances there. Every one of them recovered. In another instance a ship drifted ashore in the North River with 84 cases on board. They were taken out upon the bank, and they recovered."

How very fortunate it was for these poor sufferers that, after the Medical Staff of Bellevue Hospital admitted that they could do nothing more for them, they were allowed the privilege of enjoying the blessings which nature has provided for mankind, air, water, and food, unmixed with allopathic medicine! Notwithstanding this frank and candid confession of Dr. Parker as one of the Staff of Bellevue Hospital, the managers of this Institution publish in their annual catalogue that "Eclectic and Homœopathic schools are not recognized by them." And no doubt if the laws of the State did not place all medical students upon equal privileges in all the Hospitals of New York, they would exclude students of other Colleges; fortunately, however, they are rendered incapable of carrying out any such selfish acts.

REVIEWS AND BIBLIOGRAPHICAL NOTICES.

THE PHYSIOLOGY OF MAN: DESIGNED TO REPRESENT THE EXISTING STATE OF PHYSIOLOGICAL SCIENCE, AS APPLIED TO THE FUNCTIONS OF THE HUMAN BODY. By Austin Flint, Jr., M.D., Professor of Physiology and Microscopy in the Bellevue Hospital Medical College, etc. Introduction: The Blood; Circulation; Respiration. New York, D. Appleton & Co. 1866.

The first of a series of volumes on Human Physiology, to be issued yearly, is before us, and invites us to candid perusul as well as criticism.

The style and order of the work are somewhat novel, but yet we think they constitute one of its peculiar merits, and adapt it particularly to a student's use. The subject of every section is designated, and then treated of without investing it with a tiresome and unnecessary amount of verbiage. The descriptive matter is exhaustive without being too prolix, and the author as much as possible gives the result of his own observation and experiments, as far as they conform to those of other physiologists in establishing any obscure point. Thus the student is able to discern at least what the author's conclusions are, which can hardly be said concerning those whose works are made up merely of elaborate quotations from other writers.

In the introduction he has devoted a considerable space to physiological chemistry, which certainly is in some respect inseparable from Physiology. He gives a brief yet quite comprehensive review of the vital properties of organized structure—Proximate principles—Inorganic principles—Organic non-nitrogenized principles, and Organic nitrogenized principles, while a consideration of the excrementitious proximate principle, being exclusively connected with excretion, has been deferred until the consideration of that function.

Physiological anatomy has also received his special attention, as each organ or part is described. The consideration of the blood, circulation, respiration, occupy the rest of the volume. Of nutrition he says, "It must be remembered that in nutrition the tissues are active; electing, appropriating and modifying material which is simply furnished by the blood; and as the real vital force which governs these processes resides in the tissues, tendencies of the system, such as the tubercular, scrofulous, or cancerous diathesis, which lead to disordered nutrition, must have their seat in the solids and not in the circulating fluids. The first cause of these conditions may lie in a disordered state of the blood, from bad nourishment, from the introduction of poisons, such as malaria, or the emanations from persons affected with contagious diseases, and under some circumstances, the elimination of those poisons may be effected through the blood; but when they exist in the blood, they either become fixed in the system, or are thrown off. We must regard most of the morbid actions which are dependent on diathesis, as the result of a vice in the tissue itself, not the blood with which it is supplied. It is none the less essential to health, however, that the blood should have its proper constitution." The author thus clearly enunciates what we have always conceived to be the true theory with regard to cancerous and analogous diseases; the germ of incipient cancer, whether it arise from a changed element of the blood deposited in the tissues, or an unnatural and distorted cell growth of these tissues, is a local malformation and not general until, in the process of change, it affects other structures through the medium of the fluids circulating through them. The following are given, as the most rational views with regard to the development and nutrition of the blood corpuscles:

"1. At their first apprarance in the ovum, they are formed by no special organs, for no special organs exist at that time, but appear by genesis in the sanguineous blastema.

"2. When fully formed, they are regularly organized anatomical elements, subject to the same laws of gradual molecular waste and repair as any of the tissues.

"3. They are generated de novo in the adult, when diminished in quantity by hemorrhage or otherwise, and under these circumstances they are probably formed in the liquor sanguinis by the same process by which they take their origin in the ovum."

Concerning their function he says: "They are respiratory organs; taking up the greater part of the oxygen which is absorbed by the blood in its passage through the lungs, and conveying it to the tissues, where it is given up, and its place supplied by carbonic acid." Of the buffy coat of which so much has been said by authors, he thus writes: "The buffed and cupped appearance of the clot has been supposed to indicate an inflammatory condition of the circulating fluid; inasmuch as the quantity of fibrin is generally increased in inflammation, and the greater the quantity of fibrin, the more rapid is the gravitation of the red corpuscles. Though this frequently presents itself in the blood drawn in inflammations, it is by no means pathognomonic of this condition; and is liable to occur whenever coagulation is slow, or retarded by artificial means." readers can draw their own conclusions as to whether it would be safe to bleed, because of a buffed condition of the blood. In the portion of the work devoted to the circulation of the blood, after giving credit, for its discovery, to those to whom it is due, he gives the physiological anatomy of the heart, and then speaking of the movements of that organ, gives his opinion and experiments concerning the shortening and lengthening of

the ventricles, and the protrusion of the point.

"A large Newfoundland pup, about nine months old, was poisoned with woorara, artificial respiration was kept up and the heart exposed. showing the protrusion of the point, and the apparent elongation while in the chest, the organ was rapidly removed, placed upon the table, and confined by two long needles, passed through the base and pinning it to the wood. It contracted for one or two minutes; and at each systole the ventricles were manifestly shortened. The point was then placed against an upright, and it receded with each systole about one-eighth of an inch." The same phenomena were noticed in another experiment performed on a dog, in a similar manner. Very good plates are introduced representing "the Cardiographe of Marey," for registering the impulses of the heart, and a Sphygmograph by which a definite knowledge may be obtained on paper of the physiological character of the pulse and its modifications in certain diseases. Also, a haemadynamometer and cardiometer, Concerning the capillary circulation, he thus remarks of the "These little vessels are endowed to an eminent degree with contractility, and by the contractions and relaxations of their muscular walls, regulate the supply of blood to the capillaries of individual parts. Their action is competent to produce all the variations which are observed in the capillary circulation. Some physiologists seem to look to unusual and striking causes, as operating to produce the circulation through the capillary structure, such as capillary attraction and the chemical attraction of oxygen to the tissues, and leave out of the consideration the function of the arterioles, the abundance of whose muscular tissue seems to point them out, as filling some important part in the circulation. Although he does not go into a full discussion of the subject of inflammation, but merely speaks of it incidentally, he makes a remark that is worthy of particular notice, as it shows that the doctrine which we have always taught, as the true one of inflammation, that it is a curative process which should be encouraged, is at last being recognized by the most enlightened of the Allopathic school. He says: "The process of inflammation is by no means completely understood, but it is pretty generally acknowledged to be a modification of nutrition, in a way that we are as yet ignorant of." The part devoted to respiration is thoroughly up to the rest of the work, both in the descriptive matter and in the interest and completeness of the experiments. This volume contains 502 pages and is well bound; the type

is excellent, and printed on fine yellow-tinted paper, and is altogether a very creditable production. We can commend it to the careful perusal and study of every one.

We have before us A Complete Chart of the Muscles of the Human Body. By Geo. K. Bagley, M. D. Chelsea, Vt.

This really beautiful Chart gives us the region, name, origin, insertion and physiological use of every muscle of the body. It will prove an invaluable aid to the student in the prosecution of his studies, and will be valuable as a work of reference to the general practitioner who wishes to refresh his memory on points connected with the Anatomy of the Muscles. Price 50 cents.

AN ECLECTIC TREATISE ON THE DISEASES OF CHILDREN. By W. BYRD POWELL, M. D. and ROBERT S. NEWTON, M. D.

A new edition of this work, comprising 610 pp., is now in press and will be ready for delivery by the 1st of September. The revisions and alterations of this work will be brought down to the present time, and we can confidently say that this work will supply a very large demand and a field of practical usefulness not occupied by any other work.

The work is arranged in the following order:

BOOK I.

PHYSIOLOGICAL CONSIDERATIONS IN RELATION TO PARENTS AND THE TREATMENT OF CHILDREN.

I.—Parental conditions considered with reference to children. CHAPTER SECTION I.—Marriage eligibility. II.—Parental constitution. 46 III.—Improper Marriages. IV.—Present health and qualifications. CHAPTER II.—Influence of maternal conditions on the fœtus. SECTION I.—Psychological influence of the mother of the fœtus. II.—Influence of children on a mother by a first husband, with reference to children by the second. CHAPTER III.—Of maternal duties in relation to her child. IV.—Of physical injuries to the child. SECTION I.—Necessity of a foster-mother. II.—Of improper nourishment. III.—Infectious poisons in milk. IV.—Infectious diseases. V.—Inattention to child's necessities. V.—Of men'al injuries to the child. CHAPTER I.—The vital forces. II.—The defensive faculties. " " III.—The moral faculties. " IV.—The social faculties. V.—The intellect. VI.—Of personal attentions to the child. CHAPTER SECTION I .- Washing the child. II.—The dress of the child. III.—Feeding the child by the mouth. CHAPTER VII.—The nursery. SECTION I.—Location and construction of the nursery. II.—The temperature of the nursery. ** III.—Physical training of the nursery. IV.—Mental training of the nursery. CHAPTER VIII.—Causes of infantile mortality. IX.—Of the necessity and utility of juvenile mortality. Appendix to Book I. Appendix to Book II.

BOOK II.

THE NATURAL HISTORY, PATHOLOGY, AND TREATMENT OF THE VARIOUS FORMS OF DISEASE INCIDENTAL TO INFANCY AND CHILDHOOD.

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Pathological considerations.
                  Symptomatology.
              I.—Manifestations of disease in the animal or cerebro-spinal system.
PART
 CLASS
              I.—Manifestations of disease in the cerebral apparatus.
  URDER
              I.—Inflammatory forms of cerebral disease.
                  GENUS I.—Encephalitis.
                          II.—Acute hydrocephalus.
 ORDER
             II.—Non-inflammatory forms of cerebral disease.
                  GENUS I.—Cerebral congestion.
                  Species I.—Acute cerebral congestion.
                      " II.—Passive cerebral congestion.
                  GENUS II.—Chronic hydrocephalus.
                    " III.—Cerebral hypertrophy.
                         IV.—Hydrocephaloid disease.
 ORDER
            III.—Nervous forms of cerebral disease.
                  GENUS
                         I.—Epilepsy.
                          II.—Chorea.
                    "
                         III.—Paralysis.
                         IV.—Night Terrors.
                          V.—Trismus Nascentium.
                         VI.—Convulsions.
CLASS
             II.—Manifestations of disease in the spinal apparatus.
             I.—Inflammatory forms of spinal disease.
 ORDER
                         I.—Spinal meningitis.
                          II.—Myelitis.
CLASS
            III.—Manifestations of disease in the respiratory apparatus.
 ORDER
              I.—Inflammatory forms of disease in the respiratory apparatus.
                  GENUS I.—Catarrh.
                  Species I.—Coryza.
                  GENUS II.—Laryngitis.
                  VARIETY I.—Mucous laryngitis. :
                      " II.—Sub-mucous laryngitis.
                      " III.—Pseudo-membranous laryngitis.
                      " IV.—Spasmodic laryngitis.
                  GENUS III.—Bronchitis.
                  Species I.—Acute Bronchitia.
                         II.—Chronic brouchitis.
                  GENUS IV.—Pneumonia.
                         V —Pleuritis—Pleurisy.
                        VI.—Phthisis pulmonalis.
  ORDER
             II.—Non-Inflammatory forms of disease in the respiratory apparatus.
                  GENUS I.—Absent or imperfect respiration.
                         II.—Congestion of the lungs.
                         III.—Apoplexy of the lungs.
            III.—Nervous forms of disease in the respiratory apparatus.
 ORDER
                 GENUS I.—Infantile spasm of the glottis.
                         II.—Nervous cough.
                         III.—Hooping-cough.
            IV.—Manifestations of disease in the circulatory apparatus.
CLASS
 ORDER
              1.—Non-inflammatory forms of disease in the circulatory apparatus.
                  GENUS I.—Establishment of independent circulation.
                              1. Period of the obliteration of the fætal openings.
                              2. Mode of obliteration of the fostal openings.
                         II.—Cyanopathy—Cyanosis—Blue disease of infancy.
             II.—Inflammatory forms of disease in the circulatory apparatus.
 ORDER
                  GENUS I.—Imperfect cicatrization of the umbilious.
                         II.—Pericarditis—Inflammation of the heart's envelope.
             V.—Manifestations of disease in the derma.
CLASS
              I.—Malformation and disease of the derma produced before or at
 ORDER
                    birth.
                  GENUS
                          I.—Malformation of the derma produced before birth.
                 Species I.—Alterations of color.
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Species II.—Excrescences.
                       III.—Nævi materni.
                GENUS II.—Disease of the derma produced before or at birth.
                Species I.—Absence of the skin.
                        II.—Tumor of the scalp.
                       III.—Petechise.
                       IV.—Ecchymosis.
           II.—Moist form of disease in the derma.
ORDER
                GENUS I.—Vesiculse.
                Species I.—Herpes.
                VARIETY I.—Herpes zoster.
                        II.—Herpes circinatus.
                       III.—Herpes præputialis.
                Species II.—Scabies—paora.
                GENUS II.—Bullso.
                SPECIES I.—Pemphigus.
                        II.—Erysipelas.
                       III.—Rupia.
                GENUS III.—Pustules.
                Species I.—Variola.
                VARIETY I.—Complications of variola.
                       II.—Vesicula varicella.
                            1. V. Lenticular.
                            2. V. Conoidal.
                            8. V. Globate.
                       III.—Variola vaccina.
                      IV.—Inoculated variola vaccina.
                Species II.—Ecthyma.
                       III.—Impetigo.
                Variety I.—Impetigo larvalis—crusta lactea.
                        II.—Impetigo capitas.
                Species IV.—Porrigo or favus.
                VARIETY I.—Porrigo Iupinosa.
                        II.—Porrigo scutulata—Tinea annularis.
           II.—Dry forms of disease in the derma.
ORDER
                GENUS I.—Exanthemata.
                Species I.—Roseola.
                        II.—Urticaria.
                  "
                       III.—Erythema.
                       IV.—Rubeola.
                        V.— Scarlatina.
                VARIETY I.—S. Simplex.
                        II.—8. Anginosa.
                       III.—8. Maligna.
                Genus II.—Papulæ.
                SPECIES I.—Strophulus.
              · VARIETY I.—Strophulus intertinctus
                    " II.—Strophulus confertus.
                    " III.—Strophulus volaticus.
                       IV.—Strophulus albidus.
                       V.—Strophulus candidus.
                Species II.—Lichen.
                VARIETY I.—Lichen simplex.
                        II.—Lichen agrius.
                       III.—Lichen urtricatus.
                Species III.—Prurigo—Pruritis.
                GENUS III.—Squame.
                Species I.—Pityriasis.
                        II.—Psoriasis.
                       III.—Ichthyosis.
           VI.—Manifestations of disease in the cellular system.
CLASS
            I.—Non-inflammatory forms of disease in the cellular tissue.
ORDER
                         I.—Edema.
                GENUS
                        II.—Gangrene of infants.
         VII.—Manifestations of disease in the organs of the external senses.
CLASS
           I.—Inflammatory forms of disease in the organs of the external
ORDER
                 senses.
                GENUS I.—Ophthalmia purulenta.
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GENUS II.—Scrofulous ophthalmia.
                         III.—Otitis.
          VIII.—Manifestations of disease in the genital apparatus.
 CLASS
 ORDER
             I.—Genus
                          I.—Adhesion of the labia pudendi.
                          II.—Discharges from the infantile vagina.
                         III.—Hydrocele, or dropsy of the scrotum.
PART
            II.—Manifestations of disease in the vegetative system.
CLASS
             I.—Manifestations of disease in the parts above the diaphragm.
            I.—Inflammatory forms of disease in parts located above the dia-
 ORDER
                   phragm.
                  Genus I.—Stomatitis.
                  Species I.—S. Erythemata.
                          II.—S., with altered secretion.
                         III.—8. Follicular.
                    "
                         IV.—S. Vesicular.
                    "
                          V.—S. Pustular.
                    "
                         VI.—S. Mercurial.
                  Genus II.—Angina.
                  Species I.—A. Simplex.
                         II.—A. Membranacea.
                         III.—A. Tonsillaris.
            II.—Non-inflammatory forms in parts above the diaphragm.
 ORDER
                          I.—Stomatitis gangrenous.
                          II.—Irritations of dentition.
 CLASS
            II.—Manifestations of disease in apparatus below the diaphragm.
 URDER
             I.—Inflammatory forms of disease in the digestive apparatus.
                  GENUS I.—Peritonitis.
                          II.—Cholera infantum.
            II.—Non-inflammatory forms of disease in the digestive apparatus.
 ORDER
                          I.—Gastric indigestion.
                         II.—Intestinal indigestion.
                    "
                         III.— Colic.
                         IV.—Diarrhœa.
                  SPECIES I.—D. Feculent.
                          II.—D. Bilious.
                         III.-D. Mucous.
                    "
                         IV.—D. Chylous.
                          V.—D. Lienteric.
                    "
                         VI.—D. Chronic.
                          V.—Invermination.
                  GENUS
                         VI.—Costiveness.
                        VII.—Prolapsus of the rectum.
                            BOOK III.
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OF THE FUNCTIONS AND PATHOLOGICAL RELATIONS OF THE CEREBELLUM, AND OF THE HUMAN TEMPERAMENTS, FOR THE ELUCIDATION OF DISEASE.

I.—Of the functions and pathological relations of the cerebellum.
I.—Functions and relations of the cerebellum.
I.—A summary of the prevailing opinions on the functions of the cerebellum.
II.—Special functions of the cerebellum
I. Amativeness.
II. Muscular motion.
III. Animal sensibility.
IV. Physiological inferences in reference to the cerebellum.
II.—Pathological relations of the cerebellum.
II.—The human temperaments.
I.—A review of the prevailing opinions on this subject.
II.—Of the elementary temperaments.
I. Sanguine temperament.
II. Bilious temperament.
III. Lymphatic temperament.
IV. Encephalic temperament.
III.—The combinations of the elementary temperaments.
111.—1116 COMPINSTAND OF the elementary combetaments

- 1. Binary combinations.
 - 1. The sanguine bilious temperament.
 - 2. The sanguine lymphatic temperament. 8. The sanguine encephalic temperament.
 - 4. The bilious lymphatic temperament.

 - 5. The bilious encephalic temperament.
 - 6. The encephalo-lymphatic temperament.
- II. Ternary combinations,
 - 1. The sanguine bilious-lymphatic temperament.
 - 2. The sanguine encephalo-bilious temperament.
 - 8. The sanguine encephalo-lymphatic temperament. 4. The bilious encephalo-lymphatic temperament.
- III. Quarternary combination.
 - 1. Sanguine bilious encephalo-lymphatic temperament.

NEWS AND MISCELLANY.

Muriate of Ammonia in Neuralgia.

Dr. Wm. Jones writes:

I have had better results with Muriate of Ammonia in Neuralgic diseases, than with any other remedy. It acts promptly, is thoroughly reliable, and its effects are permanent—more so than any other agent with which I am acquainted.

Perhaps I could not better illustrate the efficiency and promptness of

its action, than detail the result of one case out of many.

Mr. B. applied to me in January 1865, at 2 o'clock, a.m. Found my patient suffering with the most intense agonizing pain in the face and head. I gave him a teaspoonful of the following mixture:

> B Muriate of Ammonia, Aq. Camph.,

In about fifteen minutes he fell into a quiet, refreshing slumber, in which condition he remained about half an hour. When he awoke he assured me he was entirely free from pain.

Usually, I give a teaspoonful, repeating the dose every five minutes, until I have given it three times. I then discontinue its use three or four hours; at the end of that time, if any pain remains, I again commence its administration.

If the disease assumes a tendency to intermit, as it sometimes does, I use the treatment above indicated, and follow with Quinine.

Hay-Fever or Hay-Cold,

Is a disease peculiar to this season of the year, and affects many persons very seriously. But little attention has been given by the Medical profession to the character of the disease and its proper treatment. Hon. William F. Havemeyer, ex-Mayor of this city, gives the most rational and practical view of the whole subject I have ever met with. Mr. Havemeyer says:

"Having been afflicted annually, ever since early childhood, with what is termed the Hay-Fever, beginning about the 24th of August and ending from the 10th to the 20th of September, and having carefully observed its symptoms and progress, I give as the result of my observation and experience the following as the diagnosis and treatment of the disease: The disease shows itself about the 24th of August, and may be termed a disease of the eye, simply caused by poisonous particles of vegetable matter or

pollen, which are thrown off from buckwheat, corn, &c., and float in the air at this season of the year. These, finding their way into the eye, poison and increase its secretions, and, in passing through the lachrymal ducts into the nose, inflame the membrane of the nose, causing sneezing and a free discharge of a watery secretion; passing thence into the throat, produce irritation and a tickling sensation in that region; and if the irritation is not arrested, the membrane of the lungs frequently becomes involved and it produces more or less cough. The correctness of the foregoing statement may be inferred from the fact that persons taking a sea-voyage during its prevalence are entirely free from it; likewise, those who visit Fire Island and other localities on the sea-shore, where there is a sea-breeze, or during the prevalence of a protracted northeast rain storm. Now, if this be the true theory, the only remedy which can be relied upon is to keep as far as possible the poisonous particles from the eye. If the eye could be entirely protected, the disease would scarcely be noticed; but the eye must have air, and consequently can only be protected to a certain extent. To do so I have used a pair of plain shaded spectacles 'green or smoked), with side glasses, which should be worn as close to the eye as possible. I use shaded glasses to relieve the eye from the glare of the sun, as this increases the irritation which is an attendant upon the dis-As these glasses cannot exclude all these particles and afford a complete protection to the eye, the patient must be careful to notice when any particles find their way into the eye, and take immediate measures to prevent their unpleasant effects. Their presence will be indicated by a very slight tickling sensation about the lachrymal duct, and should be immediately removed by washing the eye out in water at a common temperature. If the process is delayed a few moments after this symptom is discerned, the patient will be compelled to go through one of the unpleasant processes which those afflicted with the disease constantly experience. On retiring at night, after the spectacles are removed, wash the eyes out with water as above, and apply a little fresh beef or mutton tallow to the inside and the bridge of the nose. In the morning as soon as the eyes are thoroughly washed, put on the spectacles and keep them on until bedtime. An essential part of the treatment is to keep the hands clean and abstain from touching any fruit, such as peaches or pears, &c., as the poisonous dust and the fuzz from the fruit adhering to the hands are transferred to the eyes and nose and increase the irritation which is peculiar to the disease. Furthermore, in riding in a railroad car the precaution should be taken to have the head protected with a veil. The system during this season should be kept in a healthy condition. If this treatment is followed closely it will almost entirely protect the patient from this disease, and make the period of its duration tolerable if not agreeable. It frequently affects persons who are laboring under other difficulties, such as Catarrh, Bronchial or Asthmatic affections. In such cases these difficulties are so largely aggravated as to render such patients almost unconscious of any other disease. But there can be no doubt but an early and constant observance of the treatment here prescribed will so far modify the irritating cause as to relieve them from the very unpleasant experience in the period during which the Hay-Fever prevails. In the cases where the disease is left to itself, it rarely leaves the patient before the 1st of October. Persons of fair skin and light complexion are most liable to this disease."

At the suggestion of Mr. Havemeyer we prescribed this treatment in several cases with perfect success.

Mr. Havemeyer's experience will prove valuable to very many professional and non-professional readers.

AMERICAN

ECLECTIC MEDICAL REVIEW;

A Monthly Record of Medicine

AND

THE COLLATERAL SCIENCES.

VOL I.

SEPTEMBER, 1866.

No. 4.

ORIGINAL COMMUNICATIONS.

On New Remedies.—No. II.

BY J. MILTON SANDERS, M. D., LL. D.,

Professor of Organic and Physiological Chemistry in the Eclectic Medical College of the City of New York.

For all the practical purposes of life, Truth might as well be in a prison as in the folios of a school-man; and those who release her from her cob-webbed shelf, and teach her to live with men, have the merit of *liberating* if not of discovering her.

Corrow.

Truth is established by investigation and delay;
Falsehood by precipitancy.
TACITUS.

The present age is prolific in new discoveries, especially in organic chemistry. The field for discovery in this branch of medical science is illimitable; and still innumerable as are organic compounds, they all result from the various arrangements of only four elements, viz:—carbon, hydrogen, oxygen, and nitrogen. It is not at all wondrous that the twenty-six letters of the alphabet should be susceptible of such an infinite variety of changes; but that only four elements should be capable of producing combinations equally as infinite, is most wonderful and curious. It is but lately that we have got an insight into the manner in which these four elements combine to form such an endless series of compounds.

There are two formulae to a compound—one is its expressed, and the other its rational formula. The former barely gives us the relative number of atoms of each element entering into combination to produce the substance. The other pictures to us the method in which these elements enter, and the manner in which they are grouped in the substance. It was the former belief that organic compounds were built up by the mere heterogeneous combination of its atoms, id est, that so many nitrogen atoms were associated with so many hydrogen, carbon and oxygen ones, and all combined together into one molecule. But the very refined manner in which substances are now submitted to experiment, together with entirely new methods of reasoning upon these subjects, have led chemical philosophers to the knowledge, that organic substances are built up in a more methodical manner, and in a manner too, which will admit of a greater number of combinations. We find that substances are formed in a kind of mechanical manner so far as their groups are concerned, by a series of substitutions, one radical, either single or compound, being substituted for the hydrogen, generally, of the typical body. For instance, water and ammonia, are two bodies, upon which many complicated compounds are built. The former, or water, may be represented thus:—

H } 0

Now if a radical, either single or compound, be substituted for one atom of the hydrogen in the above water, we get another compound entirely different from water: For instance, if the compound radical Ethyl (C₄ H₆), be substituted for an atom of the hydrogen in water, we will have the well-known body alcohol, thus:—

$$C_4$$
 H_5 0

The sulphides and the tellurides may be produced by the displacement of one atom of the oxygen in water by the metal, thus:—

So that either the hydrogen or the oxygen in water may be displaced, and an entirely new substance produced. But it is by the displacement of the hydrogen that we obtain the most important groups of substances. The more complex a substance is, the more is this complexity brought about by that of the radicals which displace the typical hydrogen in the water. For instance, the complicated substance hydrated oxide of ethyl ammonium, is produced by the displacement of a hydrogen atom in water by a complex ammonium atom, thus:—

$$\begin{pmatrix} C_4 & H_5 \end{pmatrix} & N_3 & H \\ H & \end{pmatrix} O$$

Here ammonia and ethyl have associated themselves together, forming a complex molecule, which displaces hydrogen in a molecule of water, thereby producing the above compound. A still more complex molecule displaces an atom of the hydrogen, producing the hydrated oxide of diethyl ammonium, thus:

and again we have the hydrated oxide of triethyl ammonium, built precisely upon the same type, thus:—

$$(C_4 H_8)_3 H_N$$

Now if a single atom of one of the elements entering into the composition of the displacing radical be changed, an entirely new substance is the result; so that the reader will readily conceive of the infinite variety of compounds which can result from the displacement of a single atom or more of hydrogen in water. And when two or three atoms of water coalesce, and their hydrogen atoms are separately or collectively displaced, by different single and compound radicals, the variety of substances produced is almost infinite.

But it is in the type ammonia that we get the greatest number of complicated compounds. It is by the displacement of the hydrogen atoms in ammonia that nature produces the great variety of alkaloids whose properties are so varied and contrasting. And it is likewise by this kind of displacement mostly, that the chemist obtains those very complex compounds, which we shall place before the medical profession, in the hope that a portion, at least, of them shall prove reliable remedial agents. Before describing the new remedies we propose to introduce in this paper, it is necessary that a few examples should be adduced of the manner in which compounds are formed by substituting radicals for the hydrogen in ammonia. If one atom of hydrogen is displaced in ammonia by a compound radical, we get a substance sometimes possessed of the basic character of its type, and frequently entirely devoid of it. For instance, by the displacement of one atom of hydrogen in ammonia by the radical C_s H_s, we get aniline, thus:—

This substance is that from which all the beautiful artificial colors, which are attracting so much attention of late, are produced.

If two of these hydrogen atoms in ammonia are displaced by atoms of the compound radical *methyl* (C H_{*}) we have diethylanine, thus:—

$$\begin{pmatrix}
C & H_3 \\
C & H_3
\end{pmatrix}$$
N

And if one of the hydrogen atoms is displaced, we get a still more complicated compound, methyl-ethyl-amylaline, thus:

These instances will be sufficient to illustrate and make clear the method in which complicated organic bodies are built up. This complication becomes still greater if two or three atoms of ammonia coalesce, for then they leave a still greater number of hydrogen atoms to be displaced, and hence offer a favorable opportunity for the formation of the most complex compounds. These we have in the natural alka-

loids. Morphine (C₁, H₁₀ O₂); in Nicotine (C₅ H₇) "N; in Codeine (C₁₅ H₂₁ O₂) "N; also in Pyridine (C₅ H₄) "N; in Picoline (C₆ H₇) "N; in Leucoline (C₆ H₇) "N, and in Lepidine (C₇ H₈) "N; the last five bodies being bases derived from the distillation of coal. They were introduced here for two reasons: because they may prove valuable curative agents; and because they present instances of a compound radical displacing all the ammonia in a molecule of ammonia; the three points following each radical indicating that they are triatomic, or capable of displacing each three atoms of typical hydrogen.

The substances which we shall introduce to the profession in this and fature papers, are mostly of very complicated composition. They may be built up on the ammonia, or water, or hydrogen type, as the case may be; but, as chemists are far from having ascertained the place of the principal compounds, we shall next occupy the time of the reader by attempts to formulate them.

Chloro-valerisic Acid.—It is curious to observe the great changes which a slight alteration of treatment of a substance may bring about. The production of the body which captions this paragraph is an instance of this. If we pass dry chlorine gas into pure valerianic acid, for a while, in the dark, applying a little heat when the absorption begins to become slack, we get the chloro-valerisio acid. It is a thick, fluid acid, very acrid, but colorless; heavier than water, and liquified very fluid at 86° F. It forms, with the bases, a series of salts, which, from their composition, may prove very valuable as curative agents. If now, instead of passing gas into the valerianic acid, we pass chlorine combined with an atom of hydrogen, or what is termed hydrochloric acid gas—in that case, we behold a very marked change. Instead of obtaining the very acrid chloro-valerisic acid, we get the valeriate of oxide of ethyl, one of the most delightfully fragrant substances ever produced by the chemist. Its odor is very strong and penetrating, and resembles the strawberry very exactly. It is now made as an article of commerce, and sold under the titles of "Extract of Strawberry," "Extract of Apple," "Extract of Peach," indiscriminately, by various dealers, and is used for flavoring pastry, syrups, confectionery, etc. The *chloro-valeriates* are well-marked salts, very beautiful, and well worthy the attention of the physician.

If we act upon the above acid with chlorine, in the sunshine, we have an entirely different acid, termed the chloro-valerosic acid. It is more pungent than the former acid, and forms, with the bases, a series of beautiful salts which are characteristic of this acid, as the former ones are of theirs. Thus, by the absence or presence of the sunlight, we determine the kind of acid we will obtain, and the species of salts. These sunny and shady salts, no doubt, possess entirely different properties, and are worthy of the rigid experiment of the physician.

We notice that chlorine is a gas very susceptible to the actinic rays. A mixture of chlorine and hydrogen may remain for any length of time without change, in the dark, but if a ray of sunlight be darted into the mixture, instant explosion is the result. Light exerts a peculiar effect upon chlorine, as it does upon all the elements, doubtless. rine, like most if not all the elements, exists, in its separate state, in binary combination—that is, a positive united to a negative atom. Like oxygen, we may have allotropic chlorine, or chlorine-ozone—that is, these positive and negative atoms are susceptible of separation, and of existing in that state; or, at least, a slight or trifling cause will influence this separation, as, for instance, the impinging upon it of a ray of light. This ray of light will so influence these oppositely electrical atoms of chlorine, that, at their moment of separation, one of these atoms will combine with an atom of oxygen, and leave the other atom composing the homogeneous molecule, free to combine with the other atom. But we did not intend these pages to be the medium of speculation, or of hypothesis, but that of plain, practical facts, worthy the attention of the physician. While it is captivating to drift away into the maze of philosophical speculation, and to revel in the intricacies of thought, it is not always wise to do so.

Chrysammic Acid.—To prepare this acid, take of aloes (socotrine), one part; nitric acid (Sp. gr. 1.37), eight parts, and mixing the materials best in the open air. After the violence of the action has subsided, introduce the whole into a retort, and distil off two thirds. To this add four parts more of nitric acid, and keep the mixture nearly to the boiling point as long as gas is disengaged. Now add water, when the chrysammic acid is thrown down, and another acid, chrysolepic acid, together with oxalic acid, remains in the The new acid is washed and combined with solution. potassa, recrystallizing the salt, dissolving the crystals in water, and decomposing the new solution with nitric acid, when golden-yellow crystals are obtained. These are the pure chrysammic acid. This acid is soluble in hot alcohol, or in ether. If heated strongly, the crystals decompose with explosion. They form beautiful salts, with the bases. The potash, soda, and magnesia salts, are of a beautiful blood-red color, if obtained in very minute crystals; but if got in large ones, they are of a brilliant emerald green color, with the metallic lustre and color (by reflected light) of gold. These crystals give a superb purple solution. All of the other salts of this singular acid are of the most resplendent colors, some being azure, others pink, and others light green; and all of them present, by reflected light, the splendid golden lustre characteristic of them. We are of the opinion that this series of salts, and those derived from Chrysolepic acid, may eventually prove of great value in medicine.

The latter acid, it will be remembered, is found along with the chrysammic acid, and may be got out of the mother liquid from which that acid was deposited. It presents itself in golden scales, sparingly soluble. Its salts generally occur as golden-yellow prismatic crystals.

Cinnamic Acid.—This acid may be obtained from balsam Peru, or balsam of Tolu, or from oil of cinnamon. If the latter is exposed to an atmosphere of pure oxygen gas, it will be rapidly converted into a mass of crystals, which are the hydrated cinnamic acid. They are colorless, transparent scales, sparingly soluble in water, but freely so in alcohol. They fuse at 240° F., and volatize at 550° F. With the bases, this acid forms salts termed cinnamates. They are very pretty salts; and we have frequently thought that they might prove of value in medicine.* If this acid is distilled with a strong solution of bichromate of potassa and sulphuric acid, it is converted into benzoic acid. The benzoates resemble the cinnamates, physically; but their physiological action would doubtless prove very different.

We feel that we cannot too strongly reprehend the criminal practice of adulterating medicines, so generally followed at the present day. Scarcely a drug, if any at all, can be got pure of the druggist; and many of them barely contain a trace of the article they represent. For instance, pure Ipecacuanha is scarcely to be found in the market, unless diligently sought, and enormously paid for. The article all · physicians use, consists of an inert root, which, when powdered, resembles the pale color of the real Ipecacuanha, and to which has been added Tartar Emetic. For this reason, the pure medicinal principle of the substance should be invariably used. The emetine should be got from the Ipecacuanha, and used exclusively. But as emetine is a pulverulent powder, susceptible of every adulteration, and offering the temptation for it, the crystallizable salts of this feeble base may be obtained, and should be used where it is possible. We should resort to the crystalline principle of plants, instead of using the crude articles. And these artificial compounds now being so rapidly discovered, should never be resorted to for curative agents, until they shall have been rendered chemically pure. This should be done by some competent chemist, whose integrity of character would be proof against

^{*}The oil of cinnamon is the anhydride of cinnamic acid, and styrone is the alcohol of this acid. By treating this cinnamic alcohol with oxidizing agents, it is converted into oil of cinnamon. If styrone is subjected to the action of platinum, in a fine state of division, it is likewise converted into the oil of cinnamon. The following equation will exhibit the reaction:

 $C_{18} H_{10} O_{2} + 20 = C_{18} H_{8} O_{2} + 2 H_{0}$

the temptation to adulterate. The chemist spares no pains in order to procure his reagents chemically pure, but how much more necessary that those active agents which are intended for medicines should be perfectly free from extraneous matter!

NEW YORK, August, 1866.

Medical Specialties and Specialists.

BY PAUL W. ALLEN, M.D.,

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It has seemed to us that there is among many medical men an unjust prejudice against specialties. We are indeed fully convinced that a large portion of those who advertise to treat particular classes of disease, in the daily and weekly newspapers of both city and country, are men of very limited medical attainments, and very unlimited brass and villainy. Very frequently do patients present themselves for treatment of phthisis, who tell their honest story of being told by some advertising "lung doctor," that their "lungs were sound, and only their livers were affected"—patients far gone in the third stage of tuberculosis. The "lung doctor" had deceived them, and sold them a large quantity of medicine, at a very extravagant price.

But does this prove that all medical men who devote special attention to diseases of the chest are both villains and quacks? Not at all. We all know that some men are eminently successful in pulmonary diseases; that they are accurate in diagnosis, and fortunate in treatment. They are often consulted for their skill in auscultation, and for their excellent remedies. Practically, and to all intents and purposes, these men are specialists; and they exist in all large cities; and are consulted because of their eminent knowledge and skill, by hundreds of medical men in general practice. These specialists are known to devote their almost exclusive attention to this class of affections. They read everything

relating to these diseases, both in foreign and domestic medical literature; they constantly and earnestly seek every item of information relating to their favorite subject from their professional brethren. They dedicate their whole attention, thought and life to secure everything valuable, new or old. That they are eminently successful, the conduct of medical men proves; for they consult them when sick themselves, as eagerly as they seek their advice for their patients.

Such men do not generally advertise their specialty, because the voice of the profession has been against it, and the code of medical ethics has condemned it. But if such men were to advertise, in a reasonable way, that they thus devoted their principal attention to pulmonary diseases, would not thousands secure for themselves the best of treatment, and in season too, instead of being deceived and robbed, by the present race of advertising "lung doctors." The direct and inevitable tendency of the present system of things is to keep away from the public knowledge every eminent medical specialist, and to give the greatest publicity and popularity and patronage to those who may have but little brains, but gloriously succeed by means of brag, brass and bullion!

Look, too, at the medical treatment of venereal diseases. Not a single week passes, that any prominent physician does not have cases which have been wofully mismanaged, by ignorant advertising quacks. The victim tells you that he, or she, has paid ten, twenty, or fifty dollars, and "it has done no good." Their money has failed, and your mercy is expected to supply the want of it, and you must cure these unfortunates. The patient has bartered his money for a bottle of "red drops," and the gonorrhea has passed into a chronic gleet; or the chancre has remained until the system has become thoroughly infected with the poison, and the disease become constitutional; or some one of the syphilodermata plainly announces to every passer that the victim has been cheated by remedies which have had no good effect.

Now, if honorable medical men would devote themselves specially to venereal diseases, and advertise by a respectable card, which simply announces their specialty, how great would be the benefit to afflicted humanity. Thousands would be seasonably and effectually cured, who are now duped and destroyed. Besides, it would transfer the greater portion of all this practice, from ignorant swindlers, to honorable and successful practitioners. Such a transfer of patronage would starve out even those trumpet-tongued quacks who now blow through every daily newspaper, and deface every fence with their pasted placards or painted signs. Multitudes in the humbler walks of life, and not a few who pass as very polite gentlemen, or very genteel ladies, now go to quacks, because they know not to whom else to go. They know not those who, among the skillful members of our profession, have devoted special attention to these diseases; and having read their newspaper, they go to those who promise, in the most glowing colors, to relieve and cure them. What an encouragement to the vilest quackery is this whole system of things!

We claim, also, that in some diseases, none but specialists can be eminently successful. We think that every reader will, upon reflection, acknowledge that this is true with reference to diseases of the skin. From the very nature of the case, this must be so. How is a physician to become successful in these diseases, without devoting special attention to them? They are very numerous, and the points of difference between some of the species are so slight, that it is impossible for an ordinary observer to establish a true diagnosis. The treatment must, of course, be as uncertain as the diagnosis. In many cases, the skin has been so chafed by clothing, or irritated by scratching, that its appearance becomes no true index to the real character of the affection. The disease is not naturally developed, and has not its true abnormal appearance. Its aspect may be entirely altered by the chafing, or scratching, or by its being complicated with some previously existing cutaneous affection. physician in general practice, who may possess only Wilson's or Neligan's work, or both, will often study in vain to diagnose his case clearly and with certainty. No accurate plates of skin diseases have ever been published in this country; and the opportunities afforded medical men to study these cases in hospitals, will only give them an outline knowledge of these diseases. The foreign editions of the works of Bateman, Rayer, Wilson, Neligan, and others, present truthful delineations of skin disease; but very few physicians have them. And then, too, in general practice, especially in the country, there are not a few forms of skin disease, which the physician might only see once or twice in a life-time.

How different with the specialist! He procures foreign editions of expensive, illustrated works; he can weekly visit the hospitals in the city where he resides, and in which are always more or less cases of cutaneous disease; and he is constantly examining, diagnosing, treating, and watching the treatment of, the hundreds of cases that are brought to him from different sections of the country. He reads everything referring to his specialty, he diagnoses accurately, and learns to treat successfully. The American Medical Association may tell him that it is quackery to practice a specialty, and especially to advertise it; but he has far more practical wisdom than all those who thus criticise him. He devotes himself constantly and earnestly to his specialty, and if he has not independence enough to advertise his legitimate business through the public press, yet his patients will do it, and he will succeed, if he can sustain himself until his merits are known. The accomplished dermatologist cures hundreds of cases which the general practitioner cannot, makes for himself an honorable reputation and a fortune, and enjoys the consciousness of a life of eminent usefulness. Such a man, or any other honorable specialist, looks with independent disdain upon all those who would prevent medical men from devoting their energies and talents and tastes to some one department of the great field of medical and surgical practice. Professionally, and morally, he deems such a course most commendable and most useful. So do the public; and men of common sense and independent thought will regard as arbitrary and unprofessional, such resolutions as the following, passed somewhat more than one year ago, by the Allopathic State Medical Society of New York.

- "Resolved, That advertisements indicating location and residence, are the utmost limits of self-announcements, consistent with professional dignity; and that all reference to special branches of medical practice, as extra inducements to patronage, should be deemed violations of the Code of Medical Ethics.
- "Resolved, That hereafter any medical practitioner so offending shall be deemed disqualified as a delegate to, or for membership of, this Society, and if already a delegate to, or a member thereof, shall be deemed a fit subject for discipline."

How unreasonable is all this! A man must not only abstain from all laudatory advertisement of his specialty, but there must be no "reference to special branches of medical practice."

Now, we all believe that every physician should have a good knowledge of the science and practice of medicine and surgery; but, in truth, almost every physician excels in some one or more departments of his profession. It is cognizant to the most common observer, that a man may be a splendid surgical operator, and yet have no skill as a physician; or, that a man may be eminently wise and practical in typhoid fever or dropsy, and yet be of no account as a surgeon. The resolutions just quoted seem to take it for granted that every man who is a "regular practitioner," must be well informed and successful, in every disease and surgical accident. The doctrine of the resolutions is, that each man is supposed to know everything, and this sentiment seems to be common to the medical fraternity; but the doctrine of the specialist may well be stated in the laconic expression of an aged clergyman, who recently remarked that, in a long life, he had learned that "it takes everybody to know every thing."

We are not disposed to undervalue the worth, the usefulness, the indispensable necessity of the general practitioner. To this class must belong by far the largest proportion of all medical men. They are needed in every village in the country, and all honor to them in their responsible, honorable, and often self-denying, labors. But it is alike the suggestion of the highest cultivation of our science, and its practical success, that there should be specialists also. whole tendency of modern civilization is toward a subdivision of labor; that the laborer, in each and every part, may be a successful specialist—that he may attain the highest perfection in his own limited sphere. The artificer in metals does not labor on all metals; but one in brass, another in silver, and another in steel and iron; and even the workers in steel and iron are divided into numerous classes—one artisan devoting his life to the making of watch-springs, whilst another devotes his studies and labors to the making and perfecting of some portion of a steam engine. Such is true civilization; and when the profession are more civilized, and less bigoted and self-wise, they will cease to oppose specialties, and look upon them as the great instruments through whose agency medicine and surgery are to be perfected. True men will not long be cramped into the narrow bounds of action prescribed by such resolutions as those we have just quoted. Such resolutions, and the spirit which originates all similar resolutions in all societies, are not only contrary to the liberal spirit of the age in which we live, but they are also contrary to the practical experience of practical men in every department of human industry and attainment. this all. The profession itself is too wide awake and independent to submit, for any long time, to any such policy or action. Here is a voice from the great West, proclaiming against such a "Code," and thus ignoring the authority of State societies, as well as that of the American Medical Association. Read the following, from a recent address of Prof. Brainard, of Rush Medical College, Chicago:

"How is this to be remedied! It is to be remedied, gentlemen, by special study; by the profession changing its views upon that subject, and saying to the young men, when they are entering the profession, and when they are about to leave the schools, that it is better for them to devote themselves to some particular branch of the profession, and try to understand it. I often have young men from various parts of this country, who are here to visit the West for the purpose of locating themselves in their practice. They very

frequently come to Chicago, and we are always glad to see them. * * * These young men come here, and they say: 'What kind of a place is Chicago for a professional man?' Now that is a very hard question to answer, because politeness does not permit me to ask another question. I could say to the young man, that if you know any one thing better than the generality of the profession, it is a good place for you; but if you do not, it will be a bad place for you. And for those young men who are incapable of applying their knowledge in such a way as to earn their daily bread, incapable of using their knowledge for the benefit of any particular class of men, so as to make it desirable for them to call upon them, Chicago is not the place. That is the difficulty under which members of the profession labor when they would enter into practice."

Prof. Brainard thus speaks like a free man; like an honest man; like a man who looks into the practical affairs of life in a business-like and common sense manner. He is cramped by no bigoted "code," and speaks the truth right out, like a true man. He believes that an eminent capacity to cure any one, or a few, classes of disease, will be duly recognized and valued, provided only that he may, in some legitimate way, make known to the public his specialty; and that the community will patronize him, because he can do them more good in the diseases to which he devotes himself, than other men can. He can cure them quicker, safer, and surer.

The practical utility of specialties is well illustrated by the very manner in which many become specialists. A man devotes himself to study, for general practice in medicine and surgery, graduates after the usual course of such study, and enters upon practice. At first, he is interested in observing every variety of disease, and in testing the remedies taught him in his pupilage; but before many years he discovers that he is very successful in some diseases, whilst in others he is entirely unsatisfied with his success. Soon he becomes greatly interested in some particular branch of the profession. He finds that his habits of mind, his tastes, and

all the peculiarities of his mental training are adapted to give him success in some specialty; and his medical brethren go to him and confide in him in the class of cases to which he has thus given particular attention. His very humanity, even more than his interest, prompts him to desire to treat those cases in which he has superior success; and to leave to other men those cases in which he has no eminent success. Practically, he becomes a specialist, and that of necessity; and almost every eminent man in the profession is essentially a specialist. What did Sir Astley Cooper do except surgery? In what did Dr. Dewees excel except in obstetrics and the diseases of females? Who knows anything about Valentine Mott, or Prof. Gross, or Dr. Carnochan, or Professors Walter Burnham, T. V. Morrow, and R. S. Newton, except as surgeons? How have Bedford and Sims, and John King and Hugh L. Hodge become so distinguished throughout the land, except by devoting long continued, earnest, special attention to obstetrics and the diseases of females?

But specialists must not advertise! We are told that, in Paris, neither Velpeau, nor Ricord, nor any other surgeon or physician have even their profession announced on their doorplates; and when the passer-by sees the name Velpeau, he knows not whether he is a dealer in silks, a wine merchant, an undertaker, or he for whom kings and princes have sent for eminent surgical assistance. According to the Paris "code," no American should dare to put Dr. on the door of his residence; and according to the American "code," Prof. Brainard is not to be allowed to publish his card, announcing that he devotes special attention to surgery, although he may devote ninety-nine one-hundredths of all his studies and time and talent to this department. What consummate nonsense! What fastidious foolishness!

It belongs to us, as American Eclectics, to show more practical wisdom; to act in accordance with the genius of the age in which we live; to break down these bigoted, conservative rules of "codes," and "associations;" and to seek the highest cultivation of every branch of professional knowledge and art, by a sub-division of industry, experiment, re-

search and practical observation. Thus doing, the profession will secure the most rapid advancement, and the best interests of humanity be subserved.

On Opening the Sac in Strangulated Hernia.

BY EDWIN FREEMAN, M. D.,

Professor of Anatomy in the Eclectic Medical College of the City of New York.

In all operations for the relief of strangulated hernia, the rule to be observed is, to cut down upon the neck of the tumor and search for the constricting band outside the sac, so as, if possible, to avoid opening it, and thus save the patient all the dangerous results that sometimes follow a wound of the peritoneum. The stricture, in femoral hernia, is very generally found in those dense fibres behind the crural arch, at the junction of Poupart's and Gimbernat's ligaments, known as Hey's or the ileo-femoral ligament. The pressure of the firm border of Gimbernat's ligament may also cause the strangulation, and often, the falciform process of the fascia lata is tightened over the neck of the tumor, as it escapes through the saphenous opening. Quite often, the thickened fibres of the fascia propria of the hernia form dense bands, which close tightly the neck of the sac, especially of those old herniæ to which a truss has been applied, or, which have often come down and been reduced. In those latter cases there may sometimes be a thickening of the peritoneum, from a deposit of fibrinous exudation, or adventitious bands may be stretched across the bowel, either at the neck or anywhere within the sac. In a very large number of cases, therefore, the stricture is to be found in the structures surrounding the neck of the hernia, and if, in the judgment of the surgeon, the bowel is free from severe injury in those cases, as soon as the strangulation is relieved the bowel may be returned within the abdomen without opening the sac. The bowel is liable to be ulcerated at the part strangulated, from pressure upon its walls; and this ulceration may extend around its entire circumference, and continue even to perforation of the bowel; or the strangulation may give rise to congestion, inflammation and gangrene of all the part protruded, or there may be around the bowel, within the sac, a few fibres which completely occlude the bowel and produce all the trouble. When any of those complications are suspected, the bowel should not be returned without an ocular examination. Says M. Velpeau, "To what accidents might we not be exposed if the intestestine were gangrenous, ulcerated, contracted, rolled upon itself, strangulated by a bridle or lodged in a rent of the epiploon, or should many of these parts be found to be glued together among themselves? A patient operated upon under such circumstances by Mr. Cooper sunk rapidly."

The operation (termed kelotomy or herniotomy) for femoral hernia, may be performed with a crescentic or a simple linear incision—the latter I prefer—over the neck of the tumor, in the direction of its long axis, which may be continued its whole length, if necessary. Care must be taken that the knife does not suddenly open the sac and wound the bowel, for although five coverings are described external to the wall of the sac, they are seldom easily separable or even easily distinguished in a hernia, and very frequently are so much stretched by the large protrusion within, that they form only a thin septum between the bowel and the external surface. The cutting should be done by pinching up the integument and other tissues in their order, and cutting from within outward, thus keeping the edge of the bistoury away from the bowel; or, if otherwise, by carefully separating the laminæ of fascia with the edge of the knife, pressing their fibres apart, and thus gradually approaching the wall of the sac or peritoneum. The finger-nail should then be passed under the edge of the falciform process, the hernia-knife glided along between them upon the nail, and then turned upwards and inwards, cutting for a line or two. Passing the finger into the femoral ring upon the neck of the sac, other constricting bands are sought for, and separated by cutting in the same manner and in the same direction. The only

artery that there is any possible danger of wounding, by cutting in this direction, is the obturator when it takes the anomalous course around the neck of the sac. however, than any other, for by cutting outward the femoral vein and artery are in danger; by cutting outwards and upwards the epigastric artery might be wounded, and by cutting directly upwards the spermatic vessels and vas deferens might be severed. Cutting directly inwards does not always sever the constricting band. Having relieved all stricture outside the sac, the reduction of the bowel should be very simple, if there be no further trouble, and is readily performed by taxis. Thus the operation is deprived of its most dangerous feature, the wounding of the peritoneum, and may be considered as a reduction by taxis, with the addition of an external wound. The reduction without opening the sac is called Petit's operation. Mr. Luke says, that out of 25 cases of hernia in which he operated, opening the sac, 8 died; in 59 cases in which the sac was unopened, 7 died, showing a much less fatality. In 31 cases of femoral hernia, operated upon by the same surgeon, it was only required to open the sac in 7.

To open the sac it is necessary to proceed with even more caution. Pinch up a small portion of it and cut, with the flat of the blade, towards the bowel; insert the director and cut upon it, with the edge of the bistoury upwards, towards the ring and downwards as much as is necessary. Examine in the ring for the stricture, and operate by cutting in the same direction as named for operating outside of the sac. Handling the bowel carefully, release the strictured part from the neck of the sac by drawing it gently out, examine it, restore its calibre as much as possible by gentle manipulation, and then pass it back into the abdominal cavity. If there be ulceration or gangrene of the bowel, or a very high degree of inflammation, with danger of sloughing and perforation of the bowel, let it remain without reduction, so that the sloughing can take place outside and the contents of the bowel, in such a case, be discharged externally. When the latter condition does not exist, after reduction, the wound

should be closed up, fomentations of arnica and aconite applied, and a compress with bandages to prevent the bowel from again protruding. It is best to give occasional injections to assist the emptying of the bowel and not to crowd the patient too much with physic, as the probabilities are that he has already taken enough of that for his good. The patient's strength must be sustained by the proper restoratives. In inguinal hernia the chances are not as great for reduction without opening the sac, for in very many cases, the stricture occurs at the internal ring, in the fibres of the fascia propria which in old herniæ is often intimately united with the neck of the sac, and in the neck of the sac itself, and can be best cut from within outward. Strangulation, in this form of hernia, may, in addition, be produced by pressure of the fibres of the intercolumnar fascia at the external ring; or of the fibres of the internal oblique muscle or fascia spermatica in the inguinal canal, in oblique inguinal hernia, or the conjoined tendon in direct hernia. The operation must be proceeded with in a similar manner with that of the other form of hernia, making a sufficiently free external incision and relieving any possible constriction at the different points in which it may occur, before opening the sac. In both forms of inguinal hernia, it is always safest to cut directly upwards upon the stricture, either within or outside of the sac, in order to avoid important vessels. This form of hernia sometimes occurs in females into the canal of Nuck, and when strangulated must be operated on as in males, but of course there is not the danger of cutting the spermatic cord as in males.

In the winter of 1864—'5, I treated a case of this form of hernia, which was very peculiar. I was called to see a lady, aged about twenty-four years, whom I found lying in bed, suffering much from what seemed to be an abscess in the right groin. She had been confined to bed some time, and was very weak. There was evidence of a large collection of pus just above the line of Poupart's ligament, in a well-defined space. This space was marked with two cicatrices, from lancet wounds, where a similar abscess had been open-

ed once before, and they had become very thin, and black from mortification. With the fine point of my bistoury, I made a small opening in the gangrenous cicatrix, which gave outlet to a large quantity of extremely fetid pus, and then, immediately, to great quantities of fecal matter, thin, and well colored with bile. There was evidently a hernia into the canal of Nuck, strangulated and gangrenous, possibly of the cœcum, and, as it seemed to me afterward, of only a part of its wall. When the pus was let out, the gangrenous wall gave way, and an evacuation of feces was the result. There must have been adhesions of the bowel to the canal. Placing cloths to catch the discharge, I directed a stimulant and tonic to sustain her strength, and injections of water, and afterwards of the pulv. sennæ et jalapæ comp. (infusion), into the bowel; the latter to be administered in proper quantity, by the mouth. She was kept from sinking, and in due time an evacuation was produced from the lower bowel from above, the most of the physic and feces, however, passing from the "artificial anus." Nourishing food, such as she could take, was allowed her, with a continuation of the tonic, and a lotion of B spts. camphor, tinc. arnica, aa 3 iv.; tinc. aconite, 3 ss; aquæ puræ, Oi., was applied constantly with a cloth. She was thus kept alive through many "sinking spells"—sometimes all the feces passing from the opening, and at other times through the natural I gradually drew the sides of the opening together, it being quite large, as the two cicatrices, with the space between, had entirely sloughed out. Her thighs were kept flexed upon the abdomen, and her knees were fastened together, to facilitate the closure of the opening. Compresses and bandages were also used, to prevent, if possible, so great a flux from the opening. After about three weeks, I had the satisfaction of finding that nearly all the feces passed the natural way. The artificial anus was considerably contracted, and the edges had healed over. pared them off with the bistoury, and drew them together with adhesive straps, favoring the effort by position, and afterwards kept the edges raw, and stimulated the healing

process by applications to them of strong nitric acid. In less than two months, the opening had entirely closed, and the bowel had completely resumed its natural function—a much more fortunate result, I must confess, than I had anticipated.

On Tuesday night, July 29th, 1858, I was called upon to see a lady, in the country, who was suffering from strangu-I arrived there Wednesday morning, and lated hernia. found her to be an elderly lady, sixty years of age, with femoral hernia of the right side, with which she had been afflicted for years, and which had been down and strangulated since the Sunday preceding. She had always worn a truss; but, on that morning, got up without putting it on, and the protrusion was the result. Her physician had made frequent attempts each day to reduce it, without success, and her friends had given her up to die. She had all the symptoms of a strangulated hernia; and there was a tumor, the size of a small lemon, firm and tense, below Poupart's ligament, opposite the saphenous opening of the fascia lata. After trying taxis, at first before, and then after administering chloroform, without success, I operated in the manner above described. The bowel could not be reduced, without opening the sac, as it was an old hernia, and the stricture was in the neck of the sac. Although it had been strangulated so long, there was no gangrene of the bowel, and it was returned into the abdominal cavity. The patient made a good recovery.

I was called to the country, April 25th, 1859, to operate in a case of femoral hernia, that became strangulated on the 21st. The patient was a German, fifty-seven years of age, who had had double femoral hernia for a long time, for which he had been wearing a truss. The abdomen was much distended, with great pain, feverishness, etc., but no vomiting. The hernia could not be reduced. I therefore operated as before described. In this case also, I was obliged to open the sac. It did not contain the usual quantity of fluid, as the other did, but was nearly dry. The bowel was quite dark, with an unpleasant, sickening odor, highly inflamed,

but not gangrenous. Taking it carefully in my hands, and drawing it a little out, I pressed it slightly in different ways, to relieve it of the impacted fæces and restore the part pressed upon to its natural calibre. Perceiving no abrasion, and that it was not gangrenous, I restored it to the abdominal cavity, as affording the best chance for a successful result. wound was then closed, and fomentations of arnica applied. Aqua camphoræ was administered internally, and injections of warm water into the bowels ordered every hour. Morphine and diaphoretic powder, in small doses, to allay pain and restlessness, and native wine, to sustain his strength, were allowed, until the bowels should disgorge themselves. was then left in charge of his attending physician. His bowels were relieved that night, but the odor was almost insupportable, and the relief was immediate. This man made a good recovery. The wound suppurated some, and, for a while, there was a fistulous opening, which was treated with pulv. zinci sulph., and readily closed up, and a permanent cure of the hernia of that side effected; so that, in time, he was able to do with only a single truss.

NEW YORK, No. 98 E. 17th Street.

Red Rubber Dental Plates and their Effect upon the System.

BY DR. CHAS. C. BARKER.

It is well known to most, that Rubber is now, and has for several years, been very extensively used as a "base" for Artificial Teeth, nine-tenths of the work worn being made of this material. Its reputation and popularity in most respects is well merited, and it is, no doubt, intrinsically the best "base" or support, of an artificial denture. But in conjunction here, is an objectionable feature, of which I wish to speak. It is in reference to the color of the rubber. I suppose that perhaps the larger share of those wearing these plates think little or nothing of the red color, even supposing it the rubber's own natural hue. The natural color

of caoutchouc and sulphur when vulcanised is dark brown or nearly black. But the Hard Rubber Co. (who prepare Dental Rubber and will allow no other to be prepared in this country, if they can prevent it, and moreover will not furnish to dentists the uncolored gum) to "please the eye," combine with the caoutchouc and sulphur, vermillion—so termed by common parlance—known also as cinnabar, and red sulphuret of Mercury. The red color thus obtained is, however, no more identical or approximate with the color of the mouth than deep scarlet with light pink, and at the same time the strength of the rubber is materially weakened by the combination, for to overcome the naturally dark color of the gum, large quantities of vermillion must be used. Now as a proposition, I wish to say here, that if the Mercury (vermillion) thus combined, is absorbed from the plate while worn in the mouth, then we may look for mercurial effects upon and in the system, and if these effects are injurious, deleterious, dangerous ones, then we had better beware, and not use the (in this case) cursed compound.

Is the proposition fair? If so, I propose to show: 1st, That mercury when introduced into the system perpetrates violence: 2d, That the mercury in the red rubber is often absorbed in a greater or less degree, this being manifest by certain infallible symptoms. In regard to my first statement, Allopaths medicate with mercury, using it in some over 50 different combinations, for almost every known disease, to alter action, and many times that action the very choice method of nature for the removal of malady. The larger number of these "folk" would scout the idea of a little mercury doing any harm. Eclectics know better, and I am able to prove by Allopathic authority this fact, for, in all time, there has been a beautiful lack of harmony in untruth.

Prof. Piggot is, or was, one of the Faculty of the "Washington University of Baltimore," (Allopathic) and is the author of a large work entitled, "Piggot's Dental Chemistry." On page 447 of this, he says: "The ordinary alterative action of this metal, when administered in properly regulated doses, (mark)—is attended by no special disturbance of the

system. But at times it does not operate upon the economy with such tranquillity." He then goes on with a portrayal of its ultimate and terrible effects upon the glandular and nervous systems, producing gangrene and paralysis, also exfoliation, &c., &c. All which he could not avoid, as an honest man and a chemist; still, linked to his school, he speaks of its use in "properly regulated doses," for to discard the vile thing, would be simply to invite ostracism. Did Surgeon-General Hammond come off unscathed when he essayed to banish calomel from the army chest? Did he not receive the anathemas of the Profs., men no more bullet proof than he? Here is a plainly indicated line of demarcation, and to step beyond and say "no mercury," is suicidal; hence there is, No Reform, and it is hard, very hard to convince some people of its deleterious effects.

Prof. Piggot says, on the next two pages—"So virulent a poison as this should never, except in cases of the sternest necessity, be introduced into the system, and then it should be done with the greatest care, and so managed that its absorption may be controlled, or that the quantity to be taken in may be regulated. The Amalgam question, as it has been called, is thus answered with the utmost promptitude by chemistry. To the chemist it has but one side; it needs but to be stated to be immediately decided upon. The use of a mercurial amalgam is, under all circumstances, wrong; for the simple reason that we have no guarantee that the most frightful results of mercurial poisoning will not take place." "That the metal itself, as well as its salts, is capable of producing these symptoms, is a matter of such commonplace notoriety that the veriest tyro is familiar with it. The recent observations of Melsens and Budd have shown that both mercury and lead, even in the form of insoluble salts, may remain a long time combined, as it were, with the tissues, producing varied phenomena of disease, and then may be set free by iodide of potassium, so as to enter the blood and produce their specific

smallness of the quantity and the gradual nature of the absorption is a guarantee against poisoning, a reply is to be found in the well known fact that small portions of metallic mercury, daily absorbed, produce the most distressing and unmanageable forms of mercurial poisoning."

Amalgam is a composition of tin and silver amalgamated by quicksilver—and used by many dentists for filling teeth—the excess of mercury being "squeezed" or pressed out of the paste, before it is packed in the tooth. If its use "is, under all circumstances, wrong!" what, in the name of common sense, is a "properly regulated dose?"

And if danger is apprehended from the merest trifle of mercury to be found in an amalgam filling, perhaps not larger than a pinhead, how is it when mercury is taken directly into the stomach in frequently repeated doses daily for weeks —as in fevers, and so forth? How is it with blue pills? . . . In proof that the mercury in the rubber plate may be absorbed, I will cite, perhaps first a case which occurred in my own family: Some six or seven months ago, our little girl. between two and three years old, got at the drawer in which I caught rubber filings and scrapings, and putting some into her mouth swallowed them. Of this we knew nothing at the time. She grew sick quite fast, and acted very strangely, showing symptoms of poisoning. There evidently was much irritation; her face was swollen, she was very dozy and stupid; her action was convulsive and spasmodic, and we were much alarmed, but knew not what she could have eaten of a poisonous nature, until we found rubber in the stool. As it was, the child and parents had a narrow escape. And since then, I think I have put up but one red rubber plate. That the plate is often acted upon more or less by the secretions of the mouth, I have no doubt. This action is modified by a variety of circumstances, and the effect of the mercury is more discernible in some cases than in others. A dental friend told me, that a lady for whom he made a set, came back sometime after, with the teeth a sort of "mahogany color." There was action here, evidently. Dr. Phelps, of Wolcottville, Ct., for-

merly of Chicago, an allopath, told me that he had seen several cases of marked salivation from the wearing of red rubber plates, and his wife's mother, for whom I made a set on the uncolored rubber, stated that several of her friends had been obliged to give up wearing their sets on account of the great irritation they produced in the throat and stomach. seen myself cases of decided derangement. A gentleman for whom I made a whole set sometime since, upon the pure rubber, who had previously worn red, sought for a long time relief from a chronic sore throat, which seemed to affect his whole system, without finding any; until, as he told me a few days ago, that since wearing his new set his throat had been better, and now he felt like a new man. These are facts. I am using now entirely pure dental rubber without any coloring matter, put up for the profession by Ash & Sons, London, England, and imported by S. S. White. It vulcanises dark brown, or nearly black, and makes a much lighter, stronger and handsomer finished plate than the red. The color is no objection, as the plate is not shown in the mouth, and it can also be made much lighter in color by bleaching. Eclecticism puts no trammels upon investigation, but points the pathway, and Eclectics "reject everything which will not bear investigation." Mercury, under many an insidious guise, gains access to our vitality, and we suffer by the contact, yet few comparatively, raise their voices against it. A consciousness of truth gives one a strong incentive, in our crusade against this destroyer, and we hope the day is now dawning in which the people every where will reject the vile stuff, and it no longer be dispensed or prescribed.

WATERBURY, Conn.

PERISCOPE.

Novel Treatment of Gonorrhaa and Gleet.

THERE is probably no ailment amongst the less severe disorders incidental to mankind the treatment of which more frequently causes trouble and anxiety to the surgeon than

does gonorrhea. Under the influence of injections a patient will apparently completely recover, and just as he is congratulating himself upon his good fortune, the recurrence of a slight discharge in the morning or after a little over-exertion brings him back to the surgeon with a long face and gloomy forebodings. Every one has met with such cases. Perhaps the unfortunate individual is engaged to be married, or he is about to start on a Continental tour, and endless annoyance is created by this return of his ailment. We have frequently wondered that amidst the numerous advances of our art in this day, some more effectual plan of treatment has not been devised for this condition. Injections of various kinds chloride of zinc, nitrate of silver, acetate of lead-will all, there is no doubt, exert a powerful influence upon the inflamed membrane; but after their employment there is so often a tendency to recurrence of the malady that it is evident the great desideratum of an effectual cure is yet wanting.

We have been interested lately in observing a new process which is now being tried by Mr. Henry Thompson at University College Hospital, and which may possibly be found of much service. Believing that the imperfect action of injections depends upon the very short time that they are in contact with the mucous membrane, Mr. Thompson conceived the idea of applying the astringent in such a form as would enable it to remain for a much longer period in contact with the inflamed surface. Under his direction Messrs. Bell & Co. have constructed "soluble bougies," two or three inches in length, made of cocoa butter, containing the drug it is wished to apply. They are cast in moulds, are perfectly firm and smooth, and may be used in any length, but that named has been deemed the best. A soluble bougie is equal in size to about No. 8 or 9 of the catheter scale, and may be introduced (having been previously oiled) by the patient himself into the urethra, where the material gradually melts in the space of about ten minutes. The patient is directed to slip one of these bougies into the passage on going to bed.

After trying many methods for retaining the bougie in situ, Mr. Thompson has adopted the following:—A piece of adhesive plaster is cut, nearly an inch wide and five inches long. A piece of Taylor's stout lint, of the same size, is rolled up into a little pad and laid on the centre of the plaster, which is warmed, and applied along the lower surface and dorsum of the penis, the prepuce meanwhile being fully retracted. A second strip of plaster, half the width of the first, is then put closely around the glans penis transversely. bougies are made to contain either a quarter of a grain of nitrate of silver, a grain of tannin, two-thirds of a grain of acetate of lead, or ten grains of nitrate of bismuth, as astringents; while others are sedative also, and contain two grains of opium, or two of belladonna. Other materials can, of course, be employed. By this plan Mr. Thompson has satisfied himself that the active agent is kept for several hours in contact with the urethral surface, and is, moreover, necessarily squeezed into the lacunæ, which often, doubtless, escape being acted upon by injections. It is by many supposed that these lacunæ, from harboring the discharge and escaping treatment, are the main cause of the persistence of gonorrhea. However that may be, there would seem little doubt that this mode of treatment permits the effectual application of the astringent, and thus promises better results than can be attained by the transitory action of an injection. It is as yet too early to pronounce a decisive opinion of this process; but it is very ingenious, and we shall watch the results with interest.— London Lancet, May 12th, 1866.

Re-vaccination.—Translated from Archives Générales de Mèdecine of May, 1866.

By M. Morton Dowler, M. D.

The Berlin Weskly Clinic (Berliner Klinische Wochaneschrift, March, 1866,) gives the following report of the revaccinations practised in the Prussian army in 1865, taken from official documents. This tableau, in relation to existing circumstances, is invested with a special interest. There were in 1865, in all 65,776 individuals, belonging to the different corps of troops, re-vaccinated.

Of this number, the cicatrices of the first vaccination were evident in 56,895 cases; indistinct in 6,143, and undistinguishable in 2,738.

The re-vaccination produced regular pustules, and were completely evolved in 41,334 cases; irregularly so, in 8,326; and in 16,166 there were no results.

The soldiers who had been re-vaccinated, without result, were subjected to a new re-vaccination, which furnished the following figures:

The legitimate pustules were in number:

From 1 to 5 in 24,154 cases.

" 6 to 10 in 18,830 "

" 11 to 20 in 8,075 "

" 21 to 80 in 744 "

The Vis Medicalrix Nature in Diseases of Children.

The wonderful efforts made by nature to overcome the disease which has seized upon the system are, perhaps, most striking as witnessed in the fevers of childhood. To watch from day to day the struggle that is waged—how almost every organ in the body labors to throw off the morbid influences which are operating injuriously on the constitution—how gradually these efforts are attended by success, till, through the united and harmonious action of lung and liver, kidney and skin, the blood is once more purified, and the little sufferer passes from the hot frenzy of fever, into the cool, calm happiness of health—is a study which is full of interest and instruction.

In simple, uncomplicated cases of febrile disease, we now know that very little in the way of treatment is required,

and that, provided the child be placed i and hygienic conditions, the fever will favorable termination. There is no 1 young patient with frequent and nause for milk and some simple cooling drink be all that Nature requires to set things

Then, again, how many of the nervou children are liable, get better without 1 drugs?

We know, for example, that choreaally regarded by parents with great alar entirely, if the patient is removed from dergoes a little moral treatment. We again, seen the spasms and twitchings i steadiness regained, under the use of the

A pneumonia will generally termina out blistering or bleeding, if the vital and some gentle stimulus given to the The truth of this, we are glad to see ad in the last edition of his valuable work Infancy and Childhood," for, in forme and antimony were recommended.

Dr. Dickinson, of London, has sho dropsy frequently gets well under full do alone, which appears to act by washing of we have ourselves pursued this plan i post-scarlatinal dropsy with success.

We might go on enumerating may which, as a rule, get better without the usagents, but we shall only give another time ago, a pale, unhealthy looking boy suffering from bronchitis. His breathing and he had slight cough. Auscultative aled large moist rales, and, over the had double-friction murmur, so harsh as tor together of two pieces of sand-paper. The but as the boy was not suffering at all, queuembent posture were enjoined, and

applied to the chest. Under this treatment, the friction sounds entirely vanished, and the patient in a short time was completely restored. Here were symptoms that were calculated to awaken alarm, and would undoubtedly have led to very active treatment had the boy come under the care of most medical men. Yet, with the simplest precautions, the case terminated in health. What we contend for, therefore, is, that nature should be more trusted and less interfered with, especially in the treatment of the diseases of early life. It is because of a lack of confidence in her recuperative powers, and a restless desire to be "doing something," that practitioners will not become more simple in their dealings with disease. We know that, in thus writing we may draw down upon us the disdain of those who will likely regard us as belonging to that class in the profession who would introduce into general practice a "donothing" system. But we hold that it is a very different thing for a medical man to stand by the bedside, an intelligent observer of Nature's operations, ready, when he sees she is hard pressed, to come to her aid with the appropriate remedy, yet not rudely interfering with her efforts, and to stand by listless and heedless, and doing nothing at all. For, in the former case, he may, by his well-timed help, turn the balance which trembles between death and recovery, while in the latter, the result, whatever it may be, is effected without, and in spite of, anything that he has done.

What we desire to see is a simpler and more philosophic treatment substituted for that blind routine which yet too widely prevails. But this desire we do not hope to have realized till the attention of our students and junior medical practitioners is more closely applied to the study of that large and important class of diseases which are peculiar to the opening years of life. For we believe that it is in this way that clear and accurate views of the immense powers of Nature to resist and overcome disease can best be attained.

—Medical Press and Circular, June, 13, 1866.

EDITORIAL.

Olinical Instruction.

NEW YORK vs. PARIS AND LONDON.

THE time has come when a comparison of the practical advantages of our own country with Europe, in regard to the requisite facilities for the most thorough course of Clinical Instruction for the student, can be and should be made.

With the broadening of our ideas, and the experience that the late terrible conflict has afforded, in the treatment of all varieties of wounds and diseases in our immense military hospitals, we can unhesitatingly enter the arena with the famous schools of Europe, and challenge attention to our own facilities and means of clinical instruction, especially in the city of New York.

Certainly it is desirable that all of our medical students should visit European hospitals, and drink in wisdom and experience wherever it may be found, but it is no longer at all necessary to go abroad, in search of ample means for the most exhaustive culture and practical experience. We have them in the hospitals of the city of New York—open to all schools of medicine—in which every possible variety of clinical instruction can be as cheaply and thoroughly obtained as elsewhere, with many special advantages, that are peculiar to, and original with ourselves, and which are not to be found in any other schools in the world. With the opening of the Eclectic Medical College, of the city of New York, this fall, the means of Clinical instruction will be more complete and available here than in any city in the world.

Here will be concentrated all that is note-worthy or pretentious in Allopathic medical instruction—established schools, cabinets, hospitals and dispensaries. Here, also, Homœopathy has its head-quarters, and has a school wherein its peculiar doctrines are taught by able professors. Here, too, will be found the leading Eelectic school of medicine in America or Europe, with its distinctive remedies and practice, hospitals, dispensaries, Eye and Ear Infirmary, its College of Dentistry and Pharmacy—in which the student will be taught thoroughly the difference in pathological views, pharmaceutical preparations, and practice between the various schools. Hitherto, this has not been done, to any extent, so that a new era has

dawned upon medical instruction in this country, and especially in the city of New York, which must now be considered as the centre and headquarters of Clinical instruction and medical culture. We have no wish to disparage, but claim to simply set forth facts, which cannot be ignored or gainsayed—that New York has extensive schools, larger hospitals, larger facilities of all kinds, and can give a more complete medical training, especially in Clinical experience, than can be found in the world elsewhere, similarly concentrated, and that these most favorable conditions will constantly be on the increase here, in a greater ratio than elsewhere.

Medical students who wish to perfect themselves fully and exhaustively in the most advanced knowledge and practice of medicine and surgery will, as a matter of course, come to New York, and enter the Eclectic Medical College for one or more terms, and in this way Electicism and Allopathy, being brought face to face, practically, the latter, with all its musty and tyrannous forms will have to go under, or adopt our vastly superior Eclectic remedies and practice, first surreptitiously, and finally, boldly and unscrupulously claiming all that we have done, as having originated with themselves. In this way, the great Allopathic leading men, like Dr. Willard Parker, will, in time, be able to truly assert, that which is not true, now—"There is no such thing as Allopathy."

The Demand for Eclectic Physicians.

WITHIN the last four months we have attended the annual meetings of several State Eclectic Medical Societies, as well as the meetings of various county and city associations, and we have been both gratified and surprised at the extraordinary demand for Eclectic physicians. Our cause is certainly becoming popular in all sections of the country; and we have never seen, in a service of more than twenty-five years as a practitioner and teacher of medicine, so universal and pressing a demand for thoroughly qualified physicians of our school. It is not alone in associations that we have been appealed to, to supply locations with practitioners, but there is scarcely a single day in which we do not receive letters, asking us to send a physician to some "good opening."

These applications come both from country towns and from cities,

large and small; and reach us from almost every State in the American Union. Specially we may mention that many small cities want a competent Eclectic surgeon. What shall be done? We can supply but very few of these places at present, certainly. The demand is for well-educated physicians. We appeal to our brother physicians: What can be done? Physicians must encourage young men of energy, character and intelligence, to come forward at once, and devote themselves to a profession which, when thoroughly acquired, is most honorable, useful and lucrative.

We must not forget to notice another phase of this subject which has constantly arrested our attention, both in these meetings, and in our large intercourse with medical men. It is this: Very many physicians, having already perhaps five or ten years' experience, and having acquired a good degree of skill in those diseases most frequently met with in country practice, might double, or quadruple their income, their honor and their popularity, by attending another course of medical lectures, by seeing surgical operations, by attending hospital clinics, and by securing the confidential instruction of those whose opportunities of observation and experience have been extensive. Many new remedies and methods of treatment, unknown ten years ago, are now being used with a success which such men would be delighted to witness. Many of these remedies are not only far more efficacious than those formerly used, but they are also much more pleasant, and must be more popular.

We do not believe in throwing aside efficient and practical remedies, for remedies which are less efficient and practical, merely because these latter remedies are pleasanter and more popular. Not at all, in any degree. But there are numerous and valuable new remedies, for a great variety of diseases, almost as pleasant and acceptable as the Homœopathic dilutions and triturations, which our physicians would find it very much for their own interest to know. Knowing them, they could at once supersede Allopathic practice, because of its nauseous drugs as well as its dangerous poisons; and they would supersede Homœopathy, because their treatment is so signally and quickly successful. We would say to our physicians: be true to yourselves, and seize upon these elements of both popularity and success.

Progress of the Epidemic.

Cholera has been making rapid strides, since its introduction into this port, by the steamships England and Virginia, in April of the present year. For a while it was confined to Quarantine grounds, but it soon overleaped all restrictions, and made its appearance in one of the filthy localities of the city late in May, at which period there was one death. The following is the number of deaths in New York city, for each week to August 11th:

Week ending.	Deaths.	Week ending.	Deaths.	Week ending.	Deaths.
June 9	2	July 7	. 8	Aug. 4	239
June 16	6	July 14	. 11	Aug. 11	250
June 23	4	July 21	. 11	In May	1
		July 28		•	

The ratio of mortality has been remarkably great, according to the published reports, but it is difficult at present to determine the exact per cent. It has visited with alarming fatality the various eleemosynary institutions, hospitals, prisons, &c., but no accurate reports, from which to establish the ratio of deaths, have been published. When it first appeared in Bellevue Hospital the mortality was not less than 70 per cent., according to a report then made, since which no special report has been published. In the city of Brooklyn it has been at least equally fatal. The troops quartered at Hart's Island have suffered severely, and it was communicated to those on Tybee Island, Savannah, by the transfer of troops, who were nearly decimated by the scourge. It made its appearance in Boston, and has been largely on the increase in Philadelphia, but August 9th, was reported on the decrease. It has shown itself in New Orleans, there being 18 deaths in the 24 hours ending 6 A. M., August 9th, and 24 deaths the succeeding 24 hours. The next day, August 11th, there were 25 deaths. In St. Louis, from August 3d to 6th there were 20 to 30 cases reported with several deaths. There were 21 cases, and 4 deaths in the 24 hours ending August 10th at noon, and 6 deaths in the succeeding 24 hours. Cincinnati always suffers terribly from the visitation, and we find, by telegraphic reports, that on August 1st, there were 4 deaths; August 2d, 8; August 3d, 11; 4th, 15; 5th, 15; 6th, 29; 7th, 31 deaths, and 42 new cases. August 8th, 27 deaths; August 9th, 49 deaths; August 10th, 38 deaths; August, 11th, 54 deaths; August 12th, 68

deaths; August 18th, 86 deaths. It is probably owing to the systematical experience of the systematical experience of the system of street surface sewerage, the bad drinking water, numerous fat-me ing, bone-boiling and slaughtering establishments, in conjunction w the impossibility of the wind's thoroughly blowing out some of the filthy localities, on account of the city being nearly surrounded hills, that the disease makes such ravages. In Elizabeth, New J sey, cholera made its appearance, and created quite a panic, but origin was clearly traceable to privies, where a man who had escap from Quarantine had left his evacuations, and the thorough use disinfectants has prevented great mischief from it. Other pla have also been visited, and the disease will, no doubt, continue spread until the whole country has felt the withering blast. T most efficient measures for diminishing its virulence are those whi promote the most extreme cleanliness, and the disinfecting of filt places, and of the matter thrown off from the stomach and bowels cholers patients, which confirms the position taken by Prof. Fr man's article in the June number of the Review. It is acknowledge by Dr. John Simon in a report recently issued in England, by (Lords of the Privy Council, that the "early diarrhosa is essentia one of the stages of the disease, and every such a diarrhosal patie may be a well-spring of infection to others," and urges the absolu necessity of paying special attention to its treatment. It also tal the ground that cholera is reproduced by the discharges of chole patienta

Outrage on a Cholera Patient.

Our attention has been called to the conduct of one J. Hav Emerson (whether or not an M. D., not specified), said to hold the i portant position of Sanitary Inspector, at the Superintendent's Off of the Board of Health, in this city, in which the following facts, we are credibly informed, appear:

First.—The patient was under regular medical treatment, a rapidly convalescing—having passed the dangerous stage—but wery weak. In this stage, this super-serviceable Inspector Emerational the poor man, and peremptorily ordered him to be removed the Battery Hospital, notwithstanding the earnest protest of the tending physician, who knew, as every intelligent physician ought know, that removal in such a condition proves, almost invariab fatal to cholera patients. This action, as was predicted by the

tending physician, resulted in the death of the patient in the hospital next morning, from superinduced exhaustion and relapse. On this state of facts, is there an unprejudiced non-professional jury in the land that would not charge the crime of killing on Inspector Emerson, without leaving their seats? What has Inspector Emerson to answer in this matter, so gravely affecting himself, and the conduct of his superiors, the professional members of the Board of Health?

We have known several cases where death relieved the patients laboring under cholera, while being conveyed from their residence to the cholera hospitals. The rule adopted in such cases is eminently wrong and cruel.

We clip the following from the "New York Daily Tribune,", August 13th, 1866:

"By whatever method the patient is to be treated, all the evidence now goes to show that it is far better to treat the ill in the places where they sicken, and if the houses be overcrowded to remove the well until the premises can be cleansed, and again made habitable."

The following extract from the "N. Y. Daily Horald," August 13th, 1866, shows how cholers patients are treated under the "rule:"

Gross Inhumanity—Three Bodies of Cholera Patients Exposed on a Dock.

"Yesterday morning, at half-past seven o'clock, an officer of the Twelfth precinct found the bodies of three persons lying on the dock at the foot of 110th street, East river. It appears that the persons had died of cholera, at the Red House hospital, during the night previous. An officer was sent from the station-house to Yorkville, to notify Dr. W. V. White, Sanitary Inspector of that district."

The Winter Session.

THE indications from the various parts of the country are, that there will be a large class in attendance upon the course of lectures this winter. We hope all the friends of the enterprise will exert themselves, and assist to make the *first* class what it should be, in point of numbers; while the Faculty will endeavor to make the instruction complete in every respect. We return our thanks to physicians in many sections, for letters daily received, encouraging us in the great enterprise upon which we have entered.

The Eclectic Medical Dispensary.

THE charter of the Eclectic Medical College of the city of New York provides for "the establishment and maintenance of a dispensary and hospital in connection with the aforesaid College." The physicians to this dispensary will be appointed by the Board of Trustees of the College, and they will be afforded an opportunity of not only laboring in the clinical departments of practice, but also of delivering clinical lectures to the class during the regular session. By this plan, there will be opened a large field of usefulness to those physicians who may be appointed by the Board, who will thus be enabled to acquire an enlarged experience in medicine and surgery.

The number of practitioners of the Eclectic School of Medicine in the city of New York and Brooklyn is ample to hold daily clinical lectures throughout the year. This may be done, by taking up special subjects and illustrating them by interesting cases, and will make each one popular, according to his success as a teacher and the number of important cases he may present before the class.

The clinics will be held in the College building, and an arrangement has also been made for the reporting of all the important cases in surgery and practice, and a synopsis of the clinical lectures, for publication in the Eolectic Medical Review. We want twelve physicians to labor with the members of the Faculty in establishing and making complete this useful department of the Eolectic Medical College. We want the full co-operation of all the members of our profession in New York and Brooklyn in this enterprise, and will be pleased to hear from those who would like to labor in this department.

Music and Hygiene, Health and Disease, considered from the Catakill Mountains.

WE recently made a visit, with our family and several friends of professional, artistic, literary, and journalistic repute, to the famous and classic Catakill Mountains. We propose to mention a few of the facts noted while there. Messrs. Joseph and Isaac Poznanski, pianist and violinist, were of our party, and Mr. Henry C. Watson, the accomplished musical composer and critic, also editor of the American Art Journal, and musical editor of the New York Tribune.

On arriving at the "Mountain House," these gentlemen arranged and gave two impromptu concerts in the great salon of that immense establishment, for the benefit of the Portland sufferers. These concerts were quite successful and brilliant, realizing a large sum of money, and imparting infinite enjoyment to unusually intelligent and appreciative audiences.

The first of these occasions was enlivened and enlightened by a brief lecture from Dr. John F. Boynton, (another of our party), the eminent geologist and philosophic inquirer and observer, on the subject of lighting the Mountain House, and other similar isolated establishments, by means easily obtained, simple, cheap, and durable, devised by himself, in which the materials for producing light, in unlimited quantity, and of the most perfect character, were stated by the eloquent lecturer to exist in abundance close at hand, on the mountains. Dr. Boynton gave a number of brilliant practical experiments, and illustrated his theme by means of apparatus he chanced to have with him; and we make no doubt but that the enterprising and intelligent proprietors of the Mountain and Laurel Houses, Messrs. Charles L. Beach and J. L. Scutt, will adopt Dr. Boynton's suggestions immediately, as they intend to enlarge their establishments before the next season; and we shall expect, should we live to visit these mountain retreats next summer, to find both houses illuminated with gas manufactured on the premises, and fitted with all the modern Mr. B. W. Spears and family, one of our most improvements. wealthy and enterprising Western journalists and business men; Col. Lester S. Willson, the gallant commander of the 60th N. Y. Volunteers, during the last year of the war; and Mr. Henri L. Stuart, were also with us; and we found at the Laurel House, Mrs. J. F. Cleveland and her two accomplished daughters; sister and nieces of the Hon. Horace Greeley; and several other lady-friends and patients of ours. During the first concert, the extraordinary length of vibration of the violins and piano (an enlarged scale Cycloid, by Lindeman and Sons) was noticed by all. This led to a series of observations on the quality of tone of the instruments, and the voices of the singers, when it was found that there was clearly an increased brilliancy and resonant power of tone in all, as compared with lower These interesting experiments and observations were conaltitudes. tinued privately, for a length of time, by Messrs. Watson and Poznanski, Dr. Boynton, Mr. Fred. Lindeman, Col. Willson, Mr. Stuart, and ourself; the results of which, with further experiments,

will, in due time be made known to our readers. We had often heard it remaked, "that people had to leave the Catakills to die," and were naturally curious in regard to the peculiar hygienic conditions of this magnificent region of the upper world, which has been made classic and deathless by the sleep of "Rip Van Winkle," and the graphic description of "Leather Stocking."

The following interesting facts were learned and established:

First, there are no resident physicians within six or eight miles of the Mountain and Laurel Houses. Second, allopathy and its murderous mineral agents are duly dreaded and eschewed by the natives of these health-bearing mountains; only simple vegetable remedies the most primary form of Eclectism in medicine, are in vogue. Third, the atmosphere is so bracing and pure, that the lungs are expanded, and the blood vivified to a very remarkable degree. Fourth, the temperature is such, that, in sunshine or shade, almost any desirable coolness or warmth can be secured, during four or five months of the year, at an elevation of three thousand feet above the level of the sea. Fifth, the meats used on the table at the Mountain and Laurel Houses are all furnished from mountain pastures, and are of the rarest delicacy and excellence—tender, juicy, sweet, and in every way delicious; while the rich milk from the beautiful cows, compares as nectar with the murky waters of the Slough of Despond. Sixth, the purity and excellence of the water make it a powerful remedial agent and restorative. Seventh, visitors should always remember that, in preparing their outfits for any length of stay on these mountains, to put up warm woollen clothing, strong and suitable for the region, and the various mountain emergencies. Eighth, ladies and children especially should have strong and highlacing mountain boots.

With these details attended to—and they are not always, as we have reason to know—the Catskills offer one of the most delightfully healthy summer resorts in the world. Sunrise at the Mountain House, with its vast expanse of plain and river, city and hamlet, and far-distant mountains; and sunset at the Laurel House, with its magic waterfall, its deep glen, nestling valleys, broad forest-covered mountain sides, and lofty peaks, are the two points of absorbing, daily interest, between which the hours pass in a gorgeous round of ever-varying grandeurs of landscape, and scenic expression over the colossal features of Nature, in her sublimest and most tender and touching moods, producing a spirit and atmosphere well caculated to

soothe, strengthen, and enliven the ailing and wearied denizens, for a season, of these healthful retreats; but whose homes are in the thronged city, amid death-dealing odors, which make Health Boards and supplication and prayer, a duty and necessity.

A word in regard to improvements, which will doubtless soon be made in this region, which has truly admirable facilities of approach, over the fine new road, of easy and romantic ascent, by which the top of the mountain is reached, by comfortable conveyances, at all hours; while the telegraph renders communication with Europe, and the rest of the world, but a matter of minutes and hours. We would suggest the following, as some of the desirable immediate improvements:

First, the opening of a road, in the form of the figure eight, around the two lakes, which nestle in a weird valley on the top of the mountain, 2,500 feet above the level of the sea. This road would be level, and about eight miles in length. Second, arranging the shores of the lakes, so as to present, at various points, water views of larger Third, the utilization of the large amount of peat in and extent. around the lakes. Fourth, the introduction of the white pond-lily, to beautify and brighten the surface of the shallow waters of the lakes. Fifth, the introduction of various kinds of fish and fish-culture. Sixth, the erection of swings, and croquet, base-ball, archery, and other health-giving exercise grounds, in the beautiful dells and sequestered places, would call thousands of visitors, and induce a much more prolonged average stay on the mountains than has ever These improvements, comparatively inexpensive, yet been realized. would lead the way to a rapidly increasing summer population, on these easily reached and delightful mountain retreats.

What could be more delicious than an Alpine cot, with its simple and durable furniture, and simple forms and surroundings, among the dells, rugged outlooks and beauty-spots of the Catskills, within daily and hourly communication with New York, and all the world beside?

To District Eclectic Medical Societies, and our friends throughout the State.

It has been suggested that your attention be called to the benefits that would result to our cause if we could have a history of the early development and progress of Eclectic Medicine from every

section of the State. Such a history would be very useful and interesting to every one who is now engaged in the Eclectic practice of medicine, and in disseminating its principles, and it would also become a matter of Record in our Annual Report to the Legislature.

I would suggest that every District Society appoint a Committee at its next meeting whose duty it shall be to gather all the information bearing on this subject from the physicians of our mode of practice within their district, as far as may be possible, with any interesting incidents or peculiarities concerning them, and transmit to the undersigned as early as the first of November next, if possible, so they can be properly arranged for the Report.

If this can be accomplished to any considerable extent throughout the State, it will become a very interesting feature of the next volume, and will also be valuable for future reference for all who are in any way concerned in our welfare. Societies, auxiliary to the State Society, have been formed in many of the Senatorial Districts of the State, which are in proper communication and harmony with the parent Society; and I would urge upon Eclectics who live in any district where no society has been formed, that they assemble and organize a Society, and report their proceedings to the Secretary of the State Society, with the names of the officers and members, and the address of each. Our object is to unite, so that we may be enabled to know our strength, that it may be concentrated and used as an influence to advance our interests; that all may share the benefits and advantages of association; and that we may obtain from the lawmaking powers, and the public, that recognition, and those advantages which accrue to us, and to which we, as much as any other branch of the Profession, are entitled. If every one would feel a personal interest in this matter, during the year we might report a a full working Society in every District in the State, the usefulness and benefits resulting from which, would be manifold to every individual member. Concert of action is essentially requisite, and is what we must have, if we assume and maintain the position we claim; and every physician should see to it that he does his share in urging the matter upon the people, and asssisting in the organization upon which the success of our principles so greatly depends. It is hoped that this may not be neglected, and that at the next Annual Meeting of the State Society, which is to be held at Saratoga Springs, on the second Wednesday of June, 1867, we may have every Senatorial District in the State represented by a full delegation from its Society. This is considered so important that it is hoped all will feel sufficient interest in it to take the requisite action, and accomplish a result so very desirable.

It will be borne in mind that there are no annual dues to be paid by the permanent members of the State Society; but according to the Constitution, each auxiliary society pays annually five dollars into the Treasury of the State Society. They will, therefore, please, when appointing their delegates, take action upon this item. It is also desirable that Secretaries of each Society should forward to the undersigned all papers, records, addresses and other items designed for the Annual Report at as early a day as practicable, not later if possible than the first of November next.

WM. W. HADLEY, M. D., Secretary, State Society.

546 Broadway, New York.

REVIEWS AND BIBLIOGRAPHICAL NOTICES.

ASIATIC CHOLERA: A TREATISE ON ITS ORIGIN, PROPAGATION, PATHOLOGY, PHENOMENA, TREATMENT, AND CUBE. By E. WHITNEY, M. D., and A. B. WHITNEY, A. M., M. D., late Physician and Surgeon to Diseases of Women in the Northwestern Dispensary; Visiting Physician, Operating Surgeon, etc., etc. Published by M. W. Dodd, 506 Broadway, New York. 18mo, 216 pages. Price, \$1.25.

This work, which has just appeared, is exceedingly valuable, presenting as it does in a condensed form, the most important and practicable information, from the early history and appearance of the disease to the present time, touching the origin, development, pathology, treatment, and cure of Epidemic or Asiatic cholera. Its facts and arguments are drawn from observation and experience, as well as from eminent authors, the results of experiments, and clinic practice, and are admirably calculated to aid the conscientious practitioner in the employment of simple, yet effectual remedies for its prevention and cure.

The arrangement of the work is strictly logical. Chapter second, on the pathology and phenomena of the disease, is peculiarly interesting and instructive. The discussions and reviews, in chapter third, of the unsuccessful modes of practice, are clear and forcible. The peculiar and distinctive principle of each of the different schools is compared and tested by the unerring rule—the pathology of the disease; and the cause of the numerous errors and failures in practice clearly shown, and fully explained.

The great object of the work, however, is the deduction and establishment of a general principle of practice, as suggested by the pathology of the disease. On this point the authors say (page 176): "In our examination, there is but one rule to be observed, and one criterion of ultimate appeal, by which to try each and every principle on which any mode of practice may be conducted. This universal and acknowledged rule is

pathology—the science which unfolds and exhibits the nature and character of disease, and "dictates the maxims of rational practice." It is th foundation, and only base of rational medicine, which proceeds on the assumption that the nature and character of disease are fully known an appreciated."

In the fourth chapter, the general principle of practice thus suggeste is clearly and fully exhibited, sustained by the best possible evidencethe results of clinic practice; also an exhibition of some of the remedia deemed well adapted to meet and fulfill the indications required "in thi the most acute of soute diseases."

The work has evidently been prepared with great care, and exhibit much valuable information, worthy the consideration of the profession and ought to be in the hands of every physician and family in the land.

The book is neatly and strongly bound, and printed in good readab

type, on fine substantial paper.

NEWS AND MISCELLANY.

820 SENATORIAL DISTRICT EGLECTIC MEDICAL SOCIETY.

The first annual meeting of this Society was held at Dunkirk on Wee nesday, 16th of May, 1866.

The meeting was called to order by the President, H. C. Taylo

M. D., of Brocton.

Minutes of the last meeting were read and approved.

Reports of the Secretary and Treasurer were read and accepted. The following Physicians were duly recommended and elected fellow

of the Society:

G. W. Carpenter, M. D., of Forestville; James Fenner, M. D., of She man; Phineas Sage, M. D., of Forestville; Cyrus Babcock, M. D., Cattaraugus Station; Airah Jenninga, M. D., of Sherman.

Reports were made by Dr. Parsons on the medical action of Pula tills; Dr. Taylor on that of Apocynum Cannabinum; and Dr. M. 1 Fenner on Apocynum and Hamamelis Virginica.

An interesting case was reported by Dr. Carpenter. Essays were produced by Drs. Parsons and Marsh.

The election of officers for the ensuing year resulted as follows:
President, Dr. N. F. Marsh, Ellington; Vice-President, Dr. Jam.
Fenner, Sherman; Secretary, Dr. C. C. Johnston, Gowanda; Treasure
Dr. A. S. Davis, Fredonia.

The subject of Typhoid Fever was then introduced and discussed a considerable length by Drs. Fenner, Johnson and Carpenter.

The subject of Cholera next occupied the attention of the Societ Dr. Marsh detailed some very interesting results of his experience an observation during the cholera epidemic of 1849-50 in Cincinnati, Ohi and testified to the remarkably efficient Eclectic plan of treatment of the

On motion of Dr. M. M. Fenner the report of Dr. J. H. Jordan to th Board of Health on the Cholera in Cincinnati for the year 1849-50 w read and adopted as a part of the proceedings.

The annual oration was delivered by Dr. O. O. Johnson and listened

with marked attention.

Drs. A. P. Parsons, H. C. Taylor, H. S. Davis and M. M. Fenner were appointed Delegates to the State Eclectic Medical Society.

Essayists for the next regular meeting: G. W. Carpenter, H. C. Taylor

and M. M. Fenner.

Special Reports:

Drs. Parsons on Pulsatilla, C. C. Johnson on Ampelopsia, James Fenner on Typhoid Fever. Dr. M. M. Fenner was appointed Orator for the next annual meeting.

On motion the Society adjourned to meet at Gowanda on the first

Tuesday (4th) of September, 1866.

Maine Eclectic Medical Society.

Agreeable to appointment for the anniversary meeting of this society, the members assembled at 10 o'clock A. M., June 27th, at the International House, Portland.

The meeting was called to order by the President, Dr. H. G. Newton, and the proceedings of the meeting of last year were read by the Secretary,

Dr. J. Parker.

Drs. Bascom, Holmes and Wright were appointed a Committee for the nomination of officers for the ensuing year.

Dr. N. R. Martin read an essay on the influence of oxygen.

Dr. Geo. H. Day read an essay on the specific action of remedies.

Prof. R. S. Newton, of New York city, was then introduced to the meeting, and spoke very eloquently upon the rise and progress of Eclectic Medicine.

Dr. E. F. Bascom then made a report on nominations, viz.:

Prof. Geo. H. Day, Bangor, President.

N. R. Martin, M. D., Saccarappa, Vice President.

H. G. Newton, M. D., Portland, Corresponding Secretary.

J. Parker, M. D., Biddeford, Recording Secretary.

E. F. Bascom, M. D., Portland, Treasurer.

S. C. Libby, M. D., Saco, Librarian.

Drs. Samuel Anderson of Bath, M. H. Holmes of West Waterville, S. W. Esten of Machias, Councillors.

Dr. Libby then delivered the annual address, subject "Know Thyself." A vote of thanks was tendered to Dr. Libby, for his able address.

At two o'clock the Society sat down to a sumptuous dinner provided by Mr. Brewster, of the International House. After supplying the inner man, sentiments were offered and responded to by Dr. Colby of the *Press*, Prof. R. S. Newton, of New York, Dr. C. Edwin Miles of Roxbury, Prof. Paul W. Allen of Taunton, Mass., and Prof. Geo. H. Day.

The following sentiment was read from Dr. Barrows of Boston, who

was unable to be present:

May your Society proud distinction gain; A light to enlighten every son in Maine, Beneath 3 our fostering care truth will prevail, If in your lexicon there's no such word as fail.

After dinner an essay was read by H. G. Newton, M. D., on the Etio-

logy of Dysentery.

A resolution was read and passed, commemorative of the late Prof. W. Byrd Powell, of Covington, Kentucky, after which Dr. Bascom was called upon, and in a short and appropriate speech paid an eloquent tribute to his memory. He was followed by Prof. Newton, who spoke in fitting terms of the loss the profession had met in his death, and relating many anecdotes of his peculiar genius and perseverance in the search of

science. A resolution recommending a National Eclectic Medical Association was unanimously passed, also that the corresponding Secretary be requested to correspond with the officers of the various State Eclectic Medical So-cieties upon the subject.

The meeting throughout was characterized by good feeling, and we doubt not will be of much benefit to the profession. The cause of Eclecticism is rapidly gaining the confidence and support of the public in Maine.

The Sanitary Districts of New York City.

The city is divided into seven Sanitary Districts, with an Inspector for each. We give the boundaries of each District, together with the name and residence of each Inspector:

First District.—Inspector, Dr. R. Newman, No. 117 West Houston st. Commencing at Pier No. 1 North River, up Battery place to Broadway, up Broadway to Canal st., through Canal st. to the Bowery, down the Bowery to Catharine st., and down Catharine st. to the East River.

SECOND DISTRICT.—Inspector, Dr. W. F. Denning, No. 6 Charles st. Commencing at Pier No. 1 North River, up Battery place to Broadway, up Broadway to Canal st., and through Canal st. to the North River.

Third District.—Inspector, Dr. Alba Blaisdell, No. 808 First ave. Commencing at Catharine Ferry, up Catharine st. to the Bowery, through the Bowery and Third ave. to Fourteenth st., and through Fourteenth st. to the East River.

FOURTH DISTRICT.—Inspector, Dr. J. L. Brown, No. 207 West Twelfth st. Commencing at Pier No. 42 North River, through Canal st. to the Bowery, up the Bowery and Third ave. to Fourteenth st., and through Fourteenth st. to the North River.

FIFTH DISTRICT.—Inspector, Dr. E. H. Janes, No. 111 West Twenty-sixth st. This district is bounded north by Forty-second st.; east by the East River; south by Fourteenth st. and west by the North River.

Sixth District.—Inspector, Dr. Munroe Morris, No. 141 East Fifty-second st. The Sixth District embraces all that portion of the city lying north of Forty-second st., and east of Sixth ave.

SEVENTH DISTRICT.—Inspector, Dr. Guido Furman, No. 44 East Twelfth st. This district embraces all that portion of the city lying north of Forty-second st., and west of Sixth ave.

The following resolutions were adopted by the Eclectic Medical Society of the State of New York, at the recent annual meeting, held 13th and 14th June, 1866:

Resolved, 1. That in the opinion of the Eclectic Medical Society of the State of New York, the mortality among cholera patients under the present Quarantine regulations is unnecessarily large, and indicates an unwarrantable and fearful sacrifice of human life.

Resolved, 2. That we deem this terrible mortality to be due as much to the want of professional skill among the Allopathic Physicians, in charge, as to a lack of proper Quarantine accommodations.

Resolved, 3. That as we reflect upon this dreadful mortality, in the Hospital ships in New York harbor, and remember that the course of treatment there adopted will be pursued by the Allopathic Physicians of this and other States, should Asiatic cholera prevail on this continent, we look forward, with intense alarm, to the fearful sacrifice of human life which is foreshadowed in the past experience of suffering humanity.

Resolved, 4. That in the fact that the medical portion of the Board of

Health, in this city, is composed exclusively of Physicians of the Allopathic School, and the Hospitals for the treatment of cholera patients are, and probably will be, entirely under their control, we have no reason to expect better treatment of our citizens who may be, unfortunately, the inmates of those Hospitals, than of the emigrants confined on board of

the Hospital ships in the Bay of New York.

Resolved, 5. That this ghastly array of victims to Allopathic incompetency will, in the opinion of this Society, present a fearful account against the Hon. R. E. Fenton, the Governor of this State, by whom (in disregard of the rights and wishes of the majority of the people), the present Board of Health was appointed, to the exclusion of the representatives of those schools of medicine whose bills of mortality, during the

last visit of cholera to this country, were remarkably small.

Resolved, 6. That on behalf of humanity and in the name of the thousands of victims we have reason to fear will fall a sacrifice to the use of calomel and other poisonous drugs, administered by Allopathic Physicians, during the expected prevalence of cholera in this city, we hereby make an earnest appeal to the lay members of the present Board of Health, to cause at least one Hospital in the city proper, and one in the city of Brooklyn to be placed under the exclusive and untrammelled control of Eclectic Physicians, so as to enable them to give new proofs to the world (kindred to those given by Eclectic Physicians in Cincinnati, in 1849), that but slight mortallity will attend the presence of cholera, when patients are scientifically treated, instead of an average death-rate of from fifty to ninety-five per cent. as under Allopathic treatment.

Resolved, 7. The guardianship of the lives of our citizens, as much as that of their liberty and property, being in the hands of Governors and members of our State and National Legislatures, we hereby pledge ourselves to use our influence among our patients to prevent the election to office of men who refuse to grant their just requests to give to the Physicians of their choice equal advantages and position in all offices created

for the purpose of ensuring the public health.

The Commtttee also reported, that as one evidence of the views and desires of the people, respecting the success in practice, and rights of reform Physicians, of which your body forms an important part, your Committee would present the accompanying articles from the pen of Colonel Halpine, published in the New York Citizen of June the 9th, with the recommendation that said article be spread upon the proceedings of your body, and reported in its transactions.

THOMAS D. WORRALL, M.D. E. WHITNEY, M.D. D. E. SMITH, M.D.

BOOKS AND JOURNALS RECEIVED.

Constitution, By-Laws and Code of Ethics of the Eclectic Medical Association of the State of Indiana.

Constitution, and Rules and Regulations of the Vermont State Eclectic Medical Society.

Prices Current of Pure Medicines and Chemicals prepared at the Chicago Chemical blaoratory and Drug Mills, by Garrison & Co.

The Eclectic Medical Journal of Cincinnati, July and August, 1866.
The Eclectic Medical Journal of Pennsylvania, July, August, September and

October, 1866.

Buffalo Medical and Surgical Journal, June, July and August, 1866. Dental Cosmos, June, July and August, 1866.

AMERICAN

ECLECTIC MEDICAL REVIEW;

A Monthly Record of Medicine

AND

THE COLLATERAL SCIENCES.

Vol. I.

OCTOBER, 1866.

No. 5.

ORIGINAL COMMUNICATIONS.

On New Remedies.—No. III.

BY J. MILTON SANDERS, M. D., LL. D.,

PROFESSOR OF ORGANIC AND PHYSIOLOGICAL CHEMISTRY IN THE ECLECTIC MEDICAL COLLEGE OF THE CITY OF NEW YORK.

It should be remembered that he alone deserves to have any weight or influence with Posterity, who has shown himself superior to the particular and predominant *Errors* of his own times.

Corrow.

Hz who puts to practical use the Discovery of another, is in truth the real discoverer. Seneca predicted another hemisphere, but it was Columbus who presented us with it.

Perhaps Neology is more permissible in chemistry than in any other science, as the vast accumulation of matter pertaining to the organic combinations has involved a quantity of compounds, and a complexity of composition, which calls for the free use of terms almost as unlimited as the substances themselves. It is the object of all chemists, in their nomenclature, to devise such terms as will indicate the composition of the substances referred to. If it is very complex in composition, the name necessarily assumes proportions in accordance with the number of radicals entering into it. Hence such terms as Ethylene-diamine, Di-ethylene-triamine, Tetra-ethylene-triamine, Bromothylene-triethylammonium, &c., where the complexity of the compound necessitated a corresponding length of term to indicate its composition. To

give these substances an empirical name would not be in accordance with the philosophy of the science. It would be like reverting back to the leaden age of the science, where invisible though potent spirits were thought to reside in the substances, and by their influence to impart their characteristic properties to them. If, therefore, we are necessitated to occasionally make use of some terms of rather formidable dimensions, the reader will pardon their length for the redeeming quality of their comprehensiveness.

In a former paper was explained the manner in which substances are built up, from which it appears that by the substitution of single or compound radicals for each other, the vast number of substances resulting from the combination of the four elements, Carbon, Hydrogen, Oxygen, and Nitrogen, are formed. Thus from Ammonia and water are formed a great number of substances—the Hydrogen of these two bodies being displaced by a single or compound radical. Two or three of these type-groups of substances may coalesce, and thus the compound formed may be very complex, and will, of course, require a term of rather formidable length to express its composition.*

* By the displacement of the Hydrogen atoms, or a part of them, in Ammonia, we get a series of alkaloid bodies, not dissimilar to Ammonia and to the natural alkaloids. Thus the Hydrogen in Ammonia may be displaced, one atom by one atom of a monatomic radical; or two atoms by two atoms of the same radical, or by one atom each of two different radicals; or the three Hydrogen atoms may be displaced by three atoms of the same radical, or by two atoms of one radical and one atom of another. But this is not all; for under the influence of agents apt to replace more or less Hydrogen, two, three, four, and even five atoms of Ammonia may coalesce into atoms of a higher order, in which two, three, twelve, or fifteen of the Hydrogen atoms can be replaced by the atoms of other bodies. Still this is not all, for Ammonia has the power of losing its Nitrogen atoms in the same manner, being displaced by Phosphorus, Arsenic and Antimony. And it is ascertained by Prof. Hofmann that Ammonia will associate with these phosphorated, arsenicated, and antimoniated analogues, forming a higher order of molecules, containing simultaneously Nitrogen and Phosphorus, Nitrogen and Arsenic, and Nitrogen and Antimony, and perhaps even three or four of these elements.

Through the labors of several German and French chemists, and particularly the genius of Prof. Hofmann, a number of very complicated compounds have been formed, many of them approximating the natural alkaloids in their composition. This leads us to hope that ere long such substances as Quinine, Morphine, &c. will be formed artificially. In fact, Prof. Hofmann has so closely approximated the composition of quinine, that the resulting substance possessed very nearly, if not identically, the physiological properties of that alkaloid; but that the difference of only a few atoms of hydrogen may be manifest, this substance imparted to the skin a saffron hue. This would preclude its use as a medicine, but its formation gives a great hope that we shall eventually be enabled to produce the natural alkaloids artificially.

Several years ago we discovered a very interesting double salt, which we termed

THE IODO-CYANIDE OF POTASSIUM AND SILVER.

Its mode of production and its properties were presented before the "Microscopic Society of New York," in a paper which we drew up for the occasion, but which (not being present at the Society's meeting) was read by Prof. Seeley. This paper then made its appearance in the "Photographic Journal of New York," and was copied in the English Scientific Journals, and translated in the French and German Journals; still, several months after its appearance in the above journals, an English chemist republished the article almost verbatim, and, without so much as the bare mention of our name, claimed the discovery as his own! This salt may be prepared by dissolving the Iodide of Silver in a strong solution of Cyanide of Potassium. It is formed in large quantities by Photographers, who use the Cyanide of Potassium for the purpose of dissolving that portion of Iodide of Silver from the plate not acted upon by the actinic rays. If the solution, after being used by the Photographer, is evaporated down, a mass of crystals are obtained. These are the lodocyanide of Potassium and Silver. These crystals present, under polarized light, one of the most beautiful spectacles imaginable. For this purpose a drop of the fluid should be placed on the glass plate under the microscope, and allowed to evaporate spontaneously. As the crystals make their appearance, the most vivid colors are at once brought out, and change their hue with each quadrant movement of the Polarizer. Each hue of the spectrum is thus produced, but intermingling in such a variety of tones, all superbly brilliant, that the eye never tires of viewing them. These crystals, as they come into being, shoot out into the most vivid stellate forms, each portion of the crystal exhibiting a different color and differently arranged.

This salt, from its composition, would prove very poisonous in large doses, but in the proper minute quantity would doubtless exhibit the properties and effects of Prussic acid and Iodine, probably each substance being modified by its combination with the other.

The Iodo-hyposulphite of Soda and Silver, or the double salt of Soda and Silver with Iodine and Hypo-sulphurous acid, was discovered by us during the series of experiments we were making upon the cyanide salt. It may be prepared in the same manner as the former salt, only substituting a strong solution of hypo-sulphite of soda instead of the cyanide of Potassium. It is not so brilliant under polarized light as its congeneric salt, but may prove of great value in medicine. It will not prove as poisonous as the other salt, if at all so; and as it will possess the value of Iodine and Sulphur as curative agents, it may answer several desirable purposes required in medicine. This salt, with its mode of preparation and its chemical properties, was published in Prof. Seeley's Photographic Journal several years ago, but so far, we believe, has not been claimed by any other chemist.

The Ethylamine Salts.—Ethylamine is one of the new bases produced from the Ethyl series. In order to produce this interesting series of salts, it is necessary to first procure the Ethylamine itself. It may be procured by two processes. By mixing Cyanide of Ethyl (Cyanic Ether) with hydrate of Potassa, and distilling, the Ethylamine is obtained. If Iodide

and Bromide of Ethyl (Hydriodic or Bromic ether) is digested in an alcoholic solution of Ammonia until the alkaline reaction disappears, and the resulting liquid evaporated by a gentle heat, and the white crystalline residuum (which is the Bromide of Ethyl-ammonium) mixed with pulverized quicklime, and distilled in a glass retort, the Ethylamine is obtained. It is an ethereal liquid. It boils at 64° F. and partaking so strongly of ammonia as it does, the odor greatly resembles it. It has, like the latter substance, a strong alkaline reaction, and hence forms with the acids a series of salts, the nature and properties of which depend upon the radical. These salts are crystallizable, and form compounds not unlike the corresponding ammonia ones. Chlorine forms the Chloride of Ethylamine, and a golden-colored liquid termed the Bichlorethylamine. The acridity of this latter substance is quickly manifest by the copious flow of tears it will excite. Ethylamine forms, with the Bichloride of Platinum, goldenyellow leaflike crystals of great beauty. Unlike ammonia, Ethylamine vapor is inflammable.

If a mixture of Ethylamine and Bromic ether be heated for several hours in a sealed glass tube, it will become solid and form a mass of crystals which are the Bromide of Biethylamine. If these crystals are distilled with potassa, they will yield a transparent liquid termed Biethylamine. This latter substance is likewise strongly alkaline. It boils at 133° F. and forms with the acids a series of beautiful salts. Biethylamine forms with Bichloride of Platinum beautiful deep orange-colored grains.

If, now, we heat a mixture of solution of this Biethylamine and Bromic ether in a glass tube, as given above, a mass of fibrous crystals are obtained. They are the Bromide of Ethylamine. If these are distilled with potassa, a new base is obtained; it is termed the *Tri-ethylamine*. This latter substance is a very strongly alkaline liquid, which boils at 196° F. and with the acids forms a series of beautiful salts—the Chloride with Bichloride of Platinum forming the double salt of Bichloride of Platinum, and Tri-ethylamine. It is a

very soluble salt, and presents itself in magnificent, large deep orange-colored rhombs.*

There is another compound of this series, the Oxide or TETRETHYL AMMONIUM. It is obtained by mixing anhydrous Triethylamine with anhydrous Iodide of Ethyl, or hydriodic A violent reaction will ensue, and the Iodide of ether. Tetrethyl ammonium is formed. It is crystalline and transparent. This is dissolved in water, and its iodine removed by agitation with freshly precipitated oxide of silver. The solution is filtered, evaporated in vacuo, when a semi-solid mass will be the result. This is the Hydrated Oxide of TETRETHYL AMMONIUM. Its aqueous solution is very bitter, alkaline, caustic, and very stable. It will, like all strong alkalies, corrode the skin, and will saponify the fats, forming beautiful soaps. Its salts are neutral and possess great beauty. The oxide of Tetrethyl ammonium is possessed of great interest to the chemist, and has well been termed by an eminent chemist "one of the most remarkable and interesting substances known, on account of its unusual stability and its resemblance to potassa."

That the series of salts formed by Ethylamine and its compounds are destined to produce great and remarkable results in medicine, there is not a doubt. The following series of compounds, analogous to the Ethylamine bases, are no doubt destined to have their place with the above. They are all derived from Ethylamine. This substance is termed by Gerhardt Ethylophenylamine.

* The analogy between the above substances and the natural alkaloids is very striking. The chlorides of the latter are characterized by their forming double salts with Bichloride of Platinum, Terchloride of gold and Chloride of ammonium. Such we perceive is the case with the above substance, so far as the Bichloride of Platinum is concerned, and no doubt the analogy would be complete by their forming double salts with the other salts mentioned. The natural alkaloids obviously derive their distinctive features from the nitrogen they contain, and the form in which the other constituents are associated with it. As the association of the non-nitrogen constituents is very similar in the compounds in the text, the inference is strong that their medicinal effects may be analogous.

It is a liquid resembling Aniline. It boils at 400° F. It is obtained by treating aniline with Bromide or Iodide of Ethyl in the same manner as directed for the preparation of Ethylamine. Another analogous compound is the Biethylaniline. There are several other members of this series. They are alkaline bases, and form with the acids a series of salts, no doubt of great value in a medicinal point of view.

All of this series of salts are well worth the study of the chemist and physician. They are, no doubt, destined to produce marked results as curative agents, for their complexity of composition, not dissimilar to that of the natural alkaloids, highly recommend them to the profession as Febrifuges of great value, perhaps in many instances capable of superseding quinine.

New York, Sept. 1866.

On the Therapeutic Action of the Macrotis Racemosa.

Read before the Brooklyn Academy of Medicine.

BY D. E. SMITH, M. D.

I wish in this paper to give my experience in the use of an article in the Materia Medica, the therapeutic action of which, I am satisfied, is not sufficiently known to the Medical profession.

The article to which I refer, is known to Botanists by the names of Macrotis Racemosa, Cimicifuga Racemosa and the Actea Racemosa. Which one of these is the correct botanical name, I will not at this time stop to inquire.

Its common names are Black Cohosh, Squaw-root, Black Snake-root, Rattle-root and Rich-weed. The root is the medicinal part of the plant. It is large, of a dark brown color, and gives off many fibres. It is found in open woods and mountain sides in all parts of our country. A more elaborate description of the plant may be obtained from any

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a young lady, and in that case it was complicated with menorrhagia and the emmenagogue properties of the root prevented me from giving it. Twelve years ago, Dr. H. E. Firth, of this city, called me in consultation to see a patient with confluent small-pox. It was one of the worst cases I had ever seen. His face, hands, and arms were one complete mass of matter, the absorption of which was rapidly going on, and nature with all her restorative powers was evidently about to succumb. I suggested to the Doctor the use of the Macrotis. He approved of my suggestion and commenced the administration of it; the patient rapidly convalesced. I might here give many other instances of the excellent effect of this remedy, in this disease; but as I have other diseases to speak of where this medicine is of more than ordinary value, I will leave this part of my subject, simply adding, that I have had patients recover from this loathsome disease, when I have distinctly seen worms crawling about the face and ears, and that any physician who uses the Macrotis once will never wish for a better remedy in I would just add that this medicine seems to exert a specific influence over the disease; the patient recovers his strength more rapidly, and the secondary fever rarely, if ever, follows, even in confluent cases.

Sore throats of almost every description, except diptheritic, yield, as if by magic, to the power of this medicine. For such complaints I prescribe it as follows:

B. Macrotis Rac. Rad. 3 i.; crush and add of boiling water 3 vij.; let it steep to 3 iv., strain, and add of good honey or maple sugar q. s.

Gargle the throat with this every two hours and swallow a little. A cure is certain to follow, and that in a few hours.

As a parturifacient, it has but few equals in the Materia Medica. It is unlike Ergot in two particulars.

First, there is no danger by its use of injuring the offspring. Second, the pains produced by the macrotis are not of that tremendous forcing character that proceed from the use of Ergot, but they are steady, hard-bearing-down pains; just the ones for a safe and speedy delivery.

The Macrotis Racemosa has also excellent emmenagogue

properties.

Perhaps in this particular it nearly equals the Gossypium Herbaceum or Cotton plant. In three cases out of five the following formula will bring on the Catamenia if taken as directed two or three days previous to the expected flow.

B. Macrotis Rac. (rad.) 3 jss. Aquæ Bul. 3 vi.

let it steep for four hours, (this is imperative, as the root is very hard, and it requires time to procure the full strength of the medicine,) strain and sweeten. Then take one table-spoonful every two hours, soaking the feet in mustard water at bed time. Of course, the medicine should not be given under any circumstances in case of pregnancy.

As an ingredient in cough syrup, it is one of the best I know of, and enters largely into all my cough remedies.

An excellent formula for all spasmodic coughs, and one in which you will not be likely to be disappointed, is the following:

Macrotis Rac.
Asclepias Tub.
Ictodes Fœt. aa. 3j.
Aqua, q. s.

M. Boil to one pint, strain and add lb. j. of sugar and gtt. x. of oil gaultheria. Dose; one teaspoonful every three hours. The remedy has also been successfully used in Puerperal mania by Prof. Simpson, of Edinburgh.

But in no disease is the power of the *Macrotis Racemosa* so apparent as in Rheumatism. It will often cure this disease without any other medicine, and where all others have failed. But I think it best to give it in combination with other agents.

A good formula in Rheumatism, and one which will almost invariably cure the disease may be prepared as follows:

- B. Tinct. Macrotis Rac.
 - " Gelseminum Semp—
 - " Colchicum aa. 3j.

M. give one teaspoonful every four hours. A pill which I have found to have a controlling influence in Rheumatism, and which influence I believe to be owing chiefly to the medicine under consideration, is compounded as follows:

R. Ext. Macrotis Rac.

- " Iris Ver.
- 'Guaiaci, aa. 3j.

Inspissated jnice of the berries of Phytolaca decandra q. s. to form a pill mass to be divided in three-gr. pills. Two or three to be given three times a day.

I have thus far confined my remarks to the therapeutic action of this medicine in accordance with the principle of Contraria contrariis Curantur.

Mrs. P. was confined with her first child on the night of the 25th of December, 1865. The labor was natural, rapid, and everything progressed favorably. January 9th, 1866, she was attacked with uterine neuralgia. It was the most formidable case I had ever seen. All the medicines both internally and externally were of no avail. Counsel was called in, but it proved of no use. For ten days I think I never saw such suffering. The disease completely baffled all attempts at cure, and I really thought my patient must die. Knowing that the Macrotis Racemosa when given in health would produce powerful pain in the uterus, I prescribed five drops of the tincture in half a tumbler of cold water, in accordance with the theory of Similia similibus Curantur, and ordered one teaspoonful every \(\frac{1}{2} \) hour. In 24 hours from the time I commenced with this medicine, the pain ceased and has not as yet returned.

No. 165 Fort Greene Place, Brooklyn, L. I.

Treatment of Acute Inflammatory Rheumatism.

BY H. E. FIRTH, M. D.

Treatment.—Few diseases affecting the living tissues of the body cause so much annoyance as rheumatism. Chronic

subjects may suffer for years, without one hour's cessation from pain, until deformity is added to suffering, and death would seem to be a welcome messenger.

We, as Eclectic physicians, cannot, and will not rest satisfied to witness the sufferings of our fellow beings, without putting forth our strongest and best efforts for their relief; we will not alone investigate the pathology of disease, and then submit our patients to the same routine course our fathers did before us; but we will explore the new fields that organic chemistry is constantly opening up, and test the new discoveries in medical science, and the contributions to our Materia Medica, until our school of medicine shall occupy before the world that position to which its intrinsic merit already entitles it.

In discussing the treatment, I shall give but a passing glance at the varied plans suggested by different authors; there are so many and such adverse notions, that it reminds one of the thousand and one remedies recommended by every "old woman" as a sure cure. Of all modes of treatment suggested by educated physicians, the mercurial and blood-letting is the most abominable, and deserves simply to be ridiculed by every Eclectic physician. Next in order of absurd remedies is Antimony, as also, all depleting means, whereby the vital force is lessened, and the recuperative powers of the system defeated. The most reasonable of all the plans suggested by the Allopathic profession, is the Alkaline treatment, that seems to be in harmony with rational thinking, and there is no doubt but that in many instances, a simple alkaline reagent sufficient to overcome the acidity of the blood, will cure the disease; but it is when such means are accompanied with other remedial agencies, under the guidance of an intelligent prescriber, that signal relief is to be obtained, and in many instances, a speedy cure promised.

The indications in acute inflammatory rheumatism are:

1st, "To moderate the febrile symptoms, by lessening the force and frequency of the circulation of the blood.

2d, "To allay nervous irritability, and relax the constricted state of the tissues.

3d, "To attenuate the density of the blood, by the introduction of such chemical reagents as will change its acid state, redissolve its fibrin, and prevent its concretion in the form of fibrous plasma or lymph.

4th, "To promote the secretions and excretions of the body, by the use of alteratives, diuretics and tonics, and especially by promoting the action of the skin and kidneys, to eliminate the *Materies Morbi* of the disease.

5th, "By restoring the assimilating and nutritious functions of the body, and furnishing material for supplying the Alkaline and nutritious elements of the blood, and to build up the waste of the system."

As I do not propose to detain you with a lengthy discussion of the above indications, but to deal practically with the subject, I will proceed at once to give you my views. In describing the plan of treatment, it must be remembered that no routine course is recommended, as circumstances alone must determine the choice of remedies, according to their therapeutic indication. It may apply as a rule in all true inflammatory cases, that in selecting our remedies, we should employ those that have a sedative influence upon the nervous system, and relax the tense condition of the muscular tissues. The following formula will mostly accomplish this object:

B. Tr. Veratrum Vir. (Norwood's), 3 ss. Aque, 3 ii.

M. Sig. One teaspoonful every 2 hours.

Between each dose of the above mixture, give gr. xv. of the Nitrate of Potassa in a wineglass of water, and if the patient is in extreme suffering, combine with the last prescription small doses of Beach's Diaphoretic Powder (Pulv. Ipecac. et Opii Camph. of the American Dispensatory); continue this treatment until the inflammatory symptoms subside, when the Veratrum treatment may be suspended, or employed in smaller doses.

If the bowels are constipated, I would at this stage administer the following cathartic:

B. Leptandrin, grs. ii. Podophyllin, Macrotin, aa. gr. i.

M.

or, if there was not much biliary derangement, the following: B. Soda et Potassa Tart. in sufficient doses to operate.

Having reduced the inflammatory symptoms, I would institute an alterative course of treatment, and if the fever is persistent, I would also continue the Veratrum in connection with the alteratives. The following simple formula will frequently answer the purpose, and may be readily obtained at any drug store:

Ŗ	Fluid Ext. Sarsaparilli Comp.	3 vi.
	" " Cimicifuga,	3 ii.
	Potassii Iodidi,	3 ii.
	Syrup Simplex,	Z iij.

M.

If the Fluid Ext. of Asclepius, or Chimaphila Umb. be added, it will be an improvement, (Law & Boyd's, or Squibb's Fluid Exts. are preferable.) In the event of your patient not materially improving, it may be of advantage to give an alcoholic vapor bath, and vary your medicine to suit the symptoms. Medicine that contains alkaline reagents, is in most instances strongly indicated; when Iodide of Potassium fails, I would employ Phosphate of Ammonia, Ammoniated Tr. Guaiaci, or in nervous subjects Valerianate of Ammonia, in connection with other means.

After the subsidence of the more inflammatory symptoms, if the case lingers, a more stimulating course may be pursued, and such remedies employed as Stillingia Syl., Guaiacum, Phytolacin, Xanthoxylin, etc. The following formula is good:

R Ext. Stillingia Syl. Rad.

Chimaphila Umb. "aa 3 i.

Cimicifuga Rac. "

Iris Versicol. "

Phytolacca Decan.

Xanthoxylum Frax. aa 3 ss.

Make a syrup after the usual form, and add Potassii Iodidi, or the Amoniated Tr. of Guaiacum, or some similar alkaline reagent. The above syrup may be used alone, or in connection with other remedial agencies as may seem to be indicated.

The Wine of Colchicum combined with Sulphate of Quinine, as recommended by Dr. Scudder, of Cincinnati, may in some cases, (especially of the neuralgic character,) be beneficial. The Tinct. of Aconite is also beneficial in some instances.

Although in almost every case, by judicious treatment, you will soon subdue the inflammatory type of disease, still under some circumstances, your case may linger, and it may be necessary for you to turn your attention to the digestive and nutritive functions, and employ such means as may improve the tone of these organs; vegetable tonics, combining Carbonate of Soda, and at times preparations of Iron will frequently increase the action of the absorbent vessels, and while they favor endosmotic action, will serve as chemical reagents to neutralize the acid condition of the blood. Some of the preparations of Ammonia will admirably fill this last indication, as also to stimulate the brain, to equalize the nervous current.

The treatment must be varied to suit the different types of the disease. A stimulating course that might benefit a chronic case, might not suit an inflammatory one, neither would it apply to a neuralgic case.

100 CLERMONT Av., Brooklyn.

Phlegmasia Dolens: or, Milk Leg,

BY G. N. LANGDON, M.D.

Is a disease which occurs soon after delivery, and its characteristics have been ably and most lucidly commented upon by many able writers. Yet most of these writers

have described conditions—the condition of the particular subject of their investigations, and from the condition of such cases, have endeavored to point out the real cause of this serious disease.

Very little light, however, has illumined their path, etiologically. What cause or causes induce this condition, which involves the subject in so much suffering—is the point for consideration.

Let us briefly examine some of the views of many writers upon this disease, and see if from the facts by them demonstrated, and from our own experience and observation, we cannot throw a ray of light, which shall lead to the *true* cause of this distressing disease.

As far back as 1784, Mr. White considered it to be caused by an obstruction or some morbid condition of the lymphatic vessels, or glands of the parts affected. Other authors, (viz.) Drs. Ferrier, Hull, Davis, and Bouillard, have claimed that the disease was caused, either by rupture during labor, or by inflammation of the crural, or hypogastric veins and effusion of serum or lymph; or, by obstruction in the crural veins.

Dr. Lee, after tracing the inflammatory conditions, gave it the name of orural Phlebitis. Dr. McKenzie thinks the disease is owing to a vitiated condition of the blood. John King is of the opinion that it is a primary affection of the lymphatics. Dr. Wall says, "it is unquestionably owing to a condition of body which may be significantly termed the constipated diathesis." Dr. Freligh is of the opinion that the majority of cases are caused by an injury of the crural nerves, especially in tedious labor. The views of many others, alike unsatisfactory, might be given, whose views of the cause of this affection are merely speculative, laboring to judge of causes by effects or conditions. Now, having been greatly befogged in my investigations of the views and experience of others in regard to this disease, I have availed myself of my own experience and observation of conditions which induce this serious and much to be dreaded affection, and after careful and minute observations I am clear and bold to declare that this disease is, in my opinion, caused by displacement of the uterus. Having devoted myself several years past quite largely to uterine displacements, with their varied complications, I have had much to throw light on this subject. I have found, in every case I have been called on to treat, where the patient formerly had suffered from this disease, that the uterus in such cases, was anteverted laterally—the fundus resting on the side so affected.

And I am quite certain, that the same mechanical cause from direct prolapsus of that organ might induce this disease in both limbs; especially when we consider that this disease always occurs soon after delivery, when the womb is large and very heavy. But as if to set speculation at defiance, and to throw a gleam of light, radiant with hope for the future—the following case occurred (viz.): On the 3d day of June last, I was called on to attend Mrs. B., a healthy, rather large, and very vigorous woman, aged 22 years, in her second labor. The labor was not rapid, but after about 12 hours from the time I was called, was safely completed. Everything in her case was satisfactory until the fourth day. On the evening of that day the husband again called for me, and remarked, that his wife was very bad, and that he would not give two and sixpence for her. I soon visited the patient, found her with heat and tenderness in the lower part of abdomen, severe and deep seated pain in the groin of the right side—in short, a full development of all the symptoms in *Phlegmasia Dolens*. I ascertained my patient had been doing for her child, what should have been done Upon examination, I found the womb much prolapsed laterally—the fundus resting on right side. I replaced the parts as nearly as possible, gave medicine to allay excitement and evacuate the bowels. Patient had some quiet rest-bowels were well liberated, and she suffered some pain from slight displacement, after getting up, on this occasion. In the morning, found the engargement of uterus much less—replaced it with little difficulty, and all symptoms of this disease ceased—and at the end of three weeks from the birth of the child, the mother was able to do the work of the family.

Now it will be observed, in this case, the labor was not what is termed, tedious or difficult, neither was there rupture or lesion of "crural nerves" or "crural or hypogastric veins" nor was there any disease of "the blood" or "lymphatics," nor was there a "constipated diathesis," as her subsequent condition fully attested, yet there was a most aggravated attack of Phlegmasia Dolens. And now, with this brief statement of facts, and the convictions of my own mind from such facts, I submit my views of the true cause of this disease. I am not vain enough to suppose my opinion will be received without scrutiny and concurrent facts—to establish or disprove my position. I invite the most rigid investigation and scrutiny. But I cannot withhold my convictions that "the obstructions," the inflammations, and the final destructions of "the tissues," as found in autopsies, by these different writers before alluded to—were the legitimate result of the *Mechanical compressions* I have here described. And again—no one, as I can see, will have to forego any pride of opinion, in giving an open mind to the views here presented. Still further, if I am correct in my conclusions, what an amount of suffering can easily be prevented by timely attention. But if asked, why this appearance of "Metastasis Lactis?" I will say, that at this time in the mother's life, every fluid in the whole system contributes its share in supplying lactation, and the "White Leg" is a result of the obstruction of the natural flow of the natural fluids.

NEW HAVEN, August 9, 1866.

PERISCOPE.

Report of the Cholera Conference at Constantinople.

The following are the principal conclusions arrived at by the Cholera Commission which held its session in Constantinople during the early months of the present year (1866).

- I. That the Asiatic cholera, which at different times has run over the whole world, has its origin in India, where it had its birth, and where it exists permanently as an endemic.
- II. That the Asiatic cholera, wherever it appears, is never spontaneously developed, and has never been observed as an endemic (care must be taken to distinguish secondary foci, more or less tenacious in their character) in any of the countries which have been enumerated (Europe, etc.), and that it has always come from abroad.
- III. That there are in India certain localities, comprised principally in the valley of the Ganges, where cholera is endemic.
- IV. That pilgrimages are in India the most powerful of all the causes which tend to develop and propagate cholera epidemics.
- V. That all these facts demonstrate conclusively that cholera is propagated by man, and with a rapidity in proportion to the activity and rapidity of his own movements.
- VI. That the transmissibility of Asiatic cholera is an incontestable verity, proved by facts which do not admit of any other interpretation.
- VII. That no fact has proved, up to the present time, that cholera can propagate itself at a distance by the atmosphere alone, whatever may be its condition; and that besides it is a law, without exception, that never has an epidemic of cholera extended from one point to another in a shorter time than was necessary for man to carry it.
- VIII. That if all modes of conveyance from countries affected with cholera are not likely to propagate the disease,

it is none the less prudent, at present, to consider all such means of conveyance as suspected.

IX. That man affected with cholera is himself the principal propagating agent of this disease, and a single cholera patient may cause the development of an epidemic.

X. That certain facts tend to prove that a single individual (with much greater reason many individuals) coming from a contaminated place, and suffering from diarrhoea, is able to cause the development of a cholera epidemic; or, in other words, that the diarrhoea called premonitory is able to transmit cholera.

XI. That in almost all cases the period of incubation, that is to say, the interval between the moment when the individual may have contracted the cholera poison and the commencement of the premonitory diarrhoea, or of confirmed cholera, does not go beyond a few days; all the facts cited of a longer incubation belong to the class where the contamination may have taken place after departure from the infected place.

XII. That there is no known fact which proves that cholera has been imported by living animals; but it is reasonable, nevertheless, to consider them, in certain cases, as belonging to the class of objects called susceptible.

XIII. That cholera can be transmitted by articles in common use coming from an infected place, and especially by those which have been used by cholera patients: and it also results from certain facts that the disease may be transported to a distance by these same articles when closely shut up from the outer air.

XIV. That although it is not proved by conclusive facts that the bodies of patients dying with cholera can transmit the disease, it is prudent to consider them as dangerous.

XV. That maritime communications are by their nature the most dangerous; that it is they which propagate most surely cholera at a distance, and that next to them comes communication by railroad, which in a very short time may carry the disease to a great distance.

XVI. That great deserts are a most effectual barrier to the

propagation of cholera, and it believes that it is without example for this disease to be imported into Egypt or Syria, across the desert, by caravans from Mecca.

XVII. That all crowding together of human beings, among whom cholera has been introduced, is a favorable condition for the rapid spread of the disease—and, if this crowding exists under bad hygienic conditions, for the violence of the epidemic among them.

That in this case the rapidity of the extension of the disease is in proportion to the degree of crowding, while the violence of the epidemic is, other things being equal, so much the greater according as individuals have been little exposed to the choleraic influence or not at all; that is to say, in other words, individuals who have already been exposed to the influence of a cholera atmosphere enjoy a sort of relative and temporary immunity which counterbalances the bad effects of crowding.

Finally, in the case of a dense crowd, the more rapid its separation, so much the more rapid is the cessation of the epidemic, at least if new arrivals of unaffected persons do not furnish new aliment for the disease.

XVIII. That the intensity of cholera on board ships crowded with men, is in general, proportionate to the crowding, and is so much the more violent, other things being equal, if the passengers have not resided in the focus of cholera from which they started; that on crowded ships the spread of cholera epidemics is ordinarily rapid; finally, the Commission adds that the danger of importation by ships, and that of giving rise to a grave epidemic, are not entirely subordinate to the intensity, nor even to the existence of choleraic symptoms appearing during the voyage.

XIX. That the crowding together of people coming from a place where cholera reigns in a lazaretto, has not the effect of producing, among the people at quarantine, a great extension of the disease; but that such a gathering is nevertheless very dangerous for the neighborhood, as it is calculated to favor the propagation of cholera.

XX. That great gatherings of men (armies, fairs, pilgrim-

ages,) are one of the most certain means for the propagation of cholera; that they constitute the great epidemic foci which, whether they march after the manner of an army, or whether they are scattered, as at fairs and in pilgrimages, import the disease into the country which they traverse; that these gatherings, after having been exposed, usually in a rapid manner, to the influence of cholera, become much less susceptible to its power, and that it disappears very speedily, unless newly arrived persons take the disease.

XXI. That the hygienic and other conditions which in general predispose a population to contract cholera, and consequently favor the intensity of epidemics, are: misery, with all its consequences; overcrowding, particularly of persons in feeble health; the hot season; want of fresh air; the exhalations from a porous soil impregnated with organic matters, above all, with the dejections from cholera patients.

It appears demonstrated by experience that the discharges of cholera patients contain the generative principle of cholera, it is right to admit that drains, privies, and the contaminated waters of towns may become the agents for the propagation of this disease.

It seems to result from certain facts that the soil of a locality, once impregnated with cholera detritus, is able to retain for a considerable length of time the property of disengaging the principle of the disease, and of thus keeping up an epidemic, or even of regenerating it after it has become extinct.

XXII. That the immunity which certain localities enjoy, that is to say, the resistance, permanent or temporary, general or partial, opposed by these localities to the development of cholera within their limits, is a fact which does not exclude transmissibility, but which indicates that certain local conditions, not yet entirely determined, are an obstacle to the development of the disease.

The same immunity, more or less complete, and more or less durable, which the majority of persons in the midst of an infected district enjoy, an immunity which attests the individual resistance to the toxic principle, is a circumstance to which we should attach the highest importance.

In point of view of epidemic development, it is the corrective of transmissibility, and viewed with regard to prophylaxia, it sets in operation proper means to arrest the ravages of the disease.

XXIII. That the air is the principal vehicle of the cholera principle. The action of the cholera miasm is so much the more sure as it operates in a confined atmosphere, and near the focus of emission. It seems that it is with cholera miasm as it is with the miasm of typhus, which rapidly loses its power in the open air at a short distance from its starting point.

XXIV. That the surrounding atmosphere is the principle vehicle of the generative agent of cholera; but the transmission of the disease by the atmosphere, in an immense majority of cases, is limited to a space very near the focus of emission.

XXV. That water and certain ingesta may also serve as vehicles for the introduction into the organism of the generative principle of cholera.

This granted, it follows, so to speak, necessarily, that the passages by which the toxic agent penetrates into the economy are principally the respiratory passages, and very probably also the digestive canals. As for its penetration by the skin, nothing tends to prove it.

XXVI. That the matter of the cholera dejections being incontestably the principal receptacle of the morbific agent, it follows that everything which is contaminated by the discharges becomes also a receptacle from which the generative principle of cholera may be disengaged, under the influence of favorable conditions; it follows, also, that the origin of the cholera germ takes place very probably in the digestive canal, to the exclusion, perhaps, of all other parts of the system.

XXVII. That in the open air the generative principle of cholera loses rapidly its morbific activity, and that this is the rule; but that under certain particular conditions of confinement, this activity may be preserved for an unlimited period.

XXVIII. Observation shows that the duration of the choleraic diarrhea, called premonitory—which must not be confounded with all the diarrheas which exist during the time of cholera—does not extend beyond a few days.

Facts cited as exceptional do not prove that the cases of diarrhosa prolonged beyond that period belong to cholera, and are susceptible of transmitting the disease, when the individual affected has been withdrawn from all cause of contamination.—Boston Med. and Surg. Journal.

Iodine in the Treatment of Uterine Leucorrhea. (The Lancet, Jan. 6, 1866.)

THE treatment of leucorrhoea is a constant subject of difficulty and vexation to the medical practitioner. Although the use of various astringents will often effect improvement, yet this is seldom lasting, and the recurrence of the symptoms is a continual source of annoyance. We have lately observed a plan which is being pursued by Dr. Murray at the Great Northern Hospital, and which promises to be a very useful addition to our means of treatment in this very troublesome condition. Dr. Murray first ascertains, by means of the speculum, that the discharge proceeds from within the uterus. He then introduces a small, short-haired brush (much like that used for washing phials), by a screwlike motion, so that the thick, phlegm-like layer on the uterine wall is swept off with every turn of the brush. When this reaches the fundus, he steadily withdraws it, charged as it is with the mucous deposit. Its place is then taken by a gum-elastic catheter with several apertures, through which is injected a lotion consisting of one part of the compound tincture of iodine to two parts of water. The uterine wall is thoroughly washed with this. The muscular contraction which follows this injection is remarkable, the tube being tightly grasped, so that its reintroduction at the time is extremely difficult. Dr. Murray has reason, after an experience of many cases treated by this plan, to feel highly satisfied with its success.

In this connection the use of iodized cotton, suggested by Dr. Robert Greenhalgh, as an application to the cervix uteri in chronic inflammatory enlargements and thickenings, and in subinvolution, with or without congestion or induration of tissue, is of interest. It is prepared as follows: Two ounces of iodide of potassium and one ounce of iodine are dissolved in eight ounces of glycerine, in which solution eight ounces of cotton wool are thoroughly saturated and then carefully dried. It should be applied through a speculum directly to the cervix uteri, using the precaution of securing it properly by a silk thread, and should be kept in position by the vagina for from twenty-four to forty-eight hours. Dr. Greenhalgh claims for it the following advantages: It is light, clean, and portable; produces no irritation; destroys all fostor; is considerably stronger than the compound tincture of iodine; is more readily absorbed, and can be kept for a longer time in contact with the diseased tissues; and, moreover, it does not soil the linen, like many of the suppositories and medicated appliances in use for uterine affections.

Dermoid Ovarian Tumor Escaping per Rectum. (The Medical Mirror, London, March and April, 1866.)

A very unusual case is reported by Mr. E. C. Garland of The patient came under Mr. G's care in September, 1860, supposing herself to be at that time five months advanced in pregnancy. She was a delicate subject, of strumous diathesis, suffering from debility, pain, with marked fulness in the left iliac region, had for some time past had diarrhœa, and a few days previous to Mr. G's visit passed, per rectum, a flesh-like substance which had all the appearance of a small bladder. Very little feces were passed, but large quantities of offensive purulent matter, amounting to pints, escaped per rectum. In the October following a large tuft of hair was found protruding from the anus, and this being removed, an examination with the speculum disclosed an ulcerative opening through the rectum, large enough to admit the finger. Some short time subsequently, a consider-

able homogeneous mass, mixed with hair, passed; the purulent matter continuing in larger quantities for ten months. From this time her health improved, and the catamenia returned; but there always existed an impediment to the passage of the feces, and hair in small quantities was occasionally passed for a period of two years. At this time, June, 1863, a large mass escaped, per rectum, attended with little pain but very considerable hemorrhage. This mass is described by Dr. Tyler Smith, who was in consultation on the case, viz.: "The external surface of the tumor consists of dermoid structure sprinkled with coarse hairs. Two large, irregular teeth project from one part of the surface. Internally, the mass is composed of fatty matter. It is probably part of a mass of similar formations, as seems evident from the extent of the discharge, and the hair passed by the rectum. Inflammation must have occurred in the cysts, followed by adhesion to the bowel, and the tumor must have passed by suppuration slowly into the rectum." No mention is made of the size of the tumor. Considerable difference of opinion as to diagnosis existed during the earlier portion of the time in which the patient manifested these symptoms, the balance of opinion being in favor of extra-uterine gestation, but this doubt was cleared by the examination of the tumor. The patient made a good recovery.

On Ill-Smelling Feet. By PROFESSOR HEBRA.

(There is no effectual remedy known for this disagreeable affection. Professor Hebra has endeavored to investigate the nature of this anomaly in secretion, and to discover the means of relieving it.)

The first question he put to himself was, whether the smell was inherent to or derived from some condition external to the economy, and he soon came to the conclusion in favor of the latter view. In repeated instances, the shoes and stockings of persons suffering from stinking feet were taken away from them, and the feet carefully cleaned with

soap and water by means of a nail brush. They were then put to bed, warmly covered up, and freely supplied with warm and diaphoretic drinks until a free transpiration was The feet were carefully enveloped in gutta percha secured. paper, or other water-proof material, so as to prevent the passage of the sweat. The sweat of the entire body, though having its acid odor, did not manifest anything of the stinking character; but when the water-proof coverings of the feet were left unchanged, the penetrating stink was gradually produced until it predominated. The shoes, which had been kept away from these persons, retained for weeks the filthy odor. The expression "stinking foot-sweat" is, in fact, an incorrect one, the proper one being "stinking shoes produced by an excessive production of sweat." The influence of stout, thick shoes as a proximate cause of the odor is seen in the facts that copious sweating of the hands is not attended by ill-smell, evaporation not being impeded, and that persons going barefoot and women who wear thin shoes are seldom liable to it.

The indications for treatment are leaving off the shoes which have induced the stink, and the application of means which have been found by experience capable of diminishing excessive secretions. In slight cases it suffices to dust the insides of the stockings with some simple powder-such as lycopododum, alum, or even common flour. If this simple means fail, the following may be employed with certainty of success:—Some diachylon is to be gently melted over a fire, and then an equal weight of linseed oil is to be added, so as to form a homogeneous ointment. This is to be spread on linen, in which the foot, having been thoroughly washed and dried, is to be completely and exactly enveloped. Where the toes come in contact, shreds of lint covered with the ointment are to be interposed. So wrapped up, the foot is to be covered with a stocking and a light shoe, well open at the instep. At the end of twelve hours the application is to be removed, and the foot is to be well rubbed by means of a dry towel or one of the powders, mentioned before, but neither washed nor bathed. It is then to be covered up with the ointment

again. This procedure will require to be repeated, according to the intensity of the evil, during eight or ten days, but the patient meanwhile is enabled to go about his ordinary occu-After this time the ointment is to be left off, but friction by means of pulverulent substances is to be continued After some a while longer, and the ordinary shoes worn. days brownish-yellow portions of epidermis, about half a line in thickness, separate from the affected parts, leaving a white, clean, healthy epidermis, behind. It is only after this separation has taken place that washing the feet or the use of a foot-bath is to be allowed; and for some time afterwards the pulverulent substances should still be rubbed into the In this way, at the end of from fourteen to twenty-one days, the foot-sweating either disappears forever, or at least, for one or more years. In quite exceptional cases, to secure this end a repetition of the above procedure for a second time is required; but then it is invariably successful. Hebra has, during fifteen years, employed in several hundred cases this with success, and without the least attendant dis advantage.—Allgem. Wiener Med. Zeitung.

M. Stanislas Martin (Bull. de Theap., t. lxv., p. 143) observes that some of the applications employed for removing this disgusting infirmity are not always harmless, the arrest of transpiration having in some cases been followed by neuralgia, disturbance of the digestive organs, &c. The diffusion of the abominable stink may be effectually prevented by placing a sole containing a layer of the powdered charcoal, either between the foot and the stocking, or between the latter and the shoe. A paste, composed of forty parts of powdered charcoal, forty of water, and fifteen of gum, should be thickly spread over a piece of filtering paper, flannel, felt, &c., stretched over a board or pasteboard. The paste is then covered over with another piece of paper which is to be smoothed with the hand so as to remove all asperities. whole is submitted to compression during an hour, after which the water is to be allowed to evaporate. When quite dry, the sole may be cut out of the required size. Being so cheaply made, these soles can be changed once or twice a day, if required.—Medical Times and Gazette, Sept. 2, 1865, p. 265.

Quinine a Constituent of the Body.

It is too soon to say that chemists have discovered that quinine is a natural constituent of the body; but they have found in the textures of the body of the guinea-pig a substance which they find it hard to distinguish from quinine. The discovery came about in an unexpected way. Dr. Bence Jones and Mr. Dupré were making experiments with a view to ascertain the rate at which substances passed into and out of the textures. They chose quinine because of its effect, or rather effect of an acid solution of it, upon light. Quinine was given to one guinea-pig and withheld from another. Both were killed. The organs and tissues of each were subjected to a process of heating in a water bath with very dilute sulphuric acid; and from the tissues of the one that had not taken quinine was extracted a fluorescent substance, the solution of which acted on the spectrum almost precisely as the solution of quinine. Not only by the mode of its extraction from the tissues and its behavior towards light was this substance not to be distinguished from quinine, but in its chemical reactions with various other substances it very closely resembled the alkaloid of cinchona. For the present is has received from the above gentlemen the name of Animal Quinoidine, and is supposed by them to be one of the earliest products of the downward passage of albumen.

It will be very remarkable if organic chemistry does not confirm this discovery, and assure us of the existence of a substance in the human body not to be distinguished from quinine. We have not much confidence yet in organic chemistry as an exponent of physiological and therapeutical facts. But this is merely because of its imperfection; and we cannot doubt that as it becomes more perfect it will diminish the number of facts which do not admit of explanation. One of these at present is the action of quinine in the

cure of ague. This is almost the only specific we have; and, in its unique isolation, it has always been curiously regarded by scientific physicians. We ourselves have been at a loss whether to regard it as an earnest of other specific remedies yet undiscovered, or to view the fact of there being one specific remedy as (so to speak) a mere accident, not justifying the hope that disease generally was ever destined to be treated and cured by specifics. Of course there was always the possibility of some explanation of its action being given; and already it seems possible that we are close upon it. Chemistry may be about to show us that quinine acts by supplying artificially a natural substance which is temporarily deficient or absent in the system, as the effect of marsh poison or other causes. This is Dr. Bence Jones's theory. We are terribly at the mercy of organic chemists in this region of science. They will forgive us if we receive their speculations with considerable doubt; we can only assure them that our doubt is largely mingled with gratitude. Dr. Bence Jones's own account of this matter was lately given in a lecture at the Royal Institution.

Mode of distinguishing between Nervous Idiopathic Albuminuria and the Albuminuria of Diseased Kidneys.

The principle upon which M. Corlieu founds the test by which he distinguishes between these two forms is, that when the kidneys are healthy the urine possesses the smell of odorous substances introduced into the system. He says that if such substances as cubebs, turpentine, &c., be ingested, they will give their characteristic odor to the urine, in cases of albuminuria, provided the kidneys be healthy; but if the kidneys be diseased, as in nephritis, the odor of these substances cannot be detected, even though they have been previously introduced into the system.

Physiological action of Narceine.

In the last number of the Journal de Chimie Medicale there is an abstract of M. Linne's researches on the above subject, from which we perceive that the following conclusions have been arrived at:—(1) Narceine is unquestionably of all the alkaloids of opium that which has the greatest narcotic power. In the majority of cases morphia and codeia do not produce as sound or as prolonged sleep as results from the use of narceine. (2) Narceine differs from the other alkaloids of opium in producing little perspiration, and in causing no loss of appetite or nausea. (3) So far from producing constipation of bowels, it causes relaxation, and, in large doses, actually gives rise to diarrhæa. (4) It not only produces sleep, but diminishes pain. (5) It has one peculiar action; it suppresses the flow of urine. For this reason M. Linne thinks it might be advantageously employed in cases of nocturnal incontinence of urine amongst children. But it seems to us that, until its action can be shown to be on the bladder rather than on the kidneys, its employment in such cases would be highly improper.

Royal Humane Society's Instructions.—Directions for Restoring the Apparently Dead.

Rule 1. To Maintain a Free Entrance of Air into the Windpipe.—Cleanse the mouth and nostrils; open the mouth; draw forward the patient's tongue, and keep it forward; an elastic band over the tongue and under the chin will answer this purpose. Remove all tight clothing from about the neck and chest.

Rule 2. To Adjust the Patient's Position.—Place the patient on his back on a flat surface, inclined a little from his feet upward; raise and support the head and shoulders on a small firm cushion or folded article of dress, placed under the shoulder-blades.

Rule 3. To Imitate the Movements of Breathing.—Grasp

the patient's arms just above the elbows, and draw the arms gently and steadily upward, until they meet above the head, (this is for the purpose of drawing air into the lungs,) and keep the arms in that position for two seconds. Then turn down the patient's arms, and press them gently and firmly against the sides of the chest. (This is with the object of pressing air out of the lungs. Pressure on the breast-bone will aid this.)

Rule 4. To excite Inspiration.—During the employment of the above method, excite the nostrils with snuff or smelling salts, or tickle the throat with a feather. Rub the chest and face briskly, and dash cold and hot water alternately on them.

Treatment after Natural Breathing has been Restored.

Rule 5.—1. To induce Circulation and Warmth. Wrap the patient in dry blankets, and commence rubbing the limbs upward, firmly and energetically. The friction must be continued under the blankets or over the dry clothing. Promote the warmth of the body by the application of hot flannels, bottles or bladders of hot water, heated bricks, etc., to the pit of the stomach, the arm-pits, between the thighs, and to the soles of the feet. Warm clothing may generally be obtained from bystanders. On the restoration of life, when the power of swallowing has returned, a teaspoonful of warm water, small quantities of wine, warm brandy and water, or coffee, should be given. The patient should be kept in bed, and a disposition to sleep encouraged. During reaction, large mustard plasters to the chest and below the shoulders will greatly relieve the distressed breathing.

- 2. If from Intense Cold.—Rub the body with some ice or cold water. Restore warmth by slow degrees. In these accidents, it is highly dangerous to apply heat too early.
- 3. If from Intoxication.—Lay the individual on his side on a bed, with his head raised. The patient should be induced to vomit. Stimulants should be avoided.
 - 4. If from Apoplexy or Sun-stroke.—Cold should be ap-

plied to the head, which should be kept well raised. Tight clothing should be removed from the neck and chest.

These instructions are closed with the following description of the appearances which generally indicate death: "There is no breathing or heart action; the jaws clinched; the fingers semi-contracted; the tongue appearing between the teeth, and the mouth and nostrils are covered with a frothy mucus; coldness and pallor of surface increases.—Southern Journal of Medical Sciences.

Mortality among Lying-in Women in the Parisian Hospitals. (British Medical Journal, April 7, 1866.)

STATISTICS show that there have been in Paris hospitals, during the month of February, 597 accouchements and no less than 30 deaths; in the Hotel Dieu, 104 accouchements and one death; in the Lying-in Hospital, 74 accouchements and no less than 30 deaths! The frightful mortality which has so long distinguished the Maternité is arresting the attention of authorities. The statistics are as follows:

Acconchements.			Deaths.
Beaujon	83	• • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • •	. 0
Hôtel Dieu	104	• • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • •	. 1
Saint Louis	77	,	. Y
Charité	42	• • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • •	. 1
Necker	30	••••••	. 1
Pitié	53	• • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • •	. 3
Cochin	84		. 3
St. Antoine	41		. 5
Cliniques	56		. 8
Maternité	74		. 30

Mr. Lefort has lately given some interesting statistics, based on a consideration of 1,800,000 accouchements. Of 883,312 women confined in the Paris hospitals, 30,594, or one in 29, died. Of 934,781 women confined in their own houses, 4,405 died, or one in 212. The cause of the great mortality in hospitals is puerperal fever.

The Journal de Médecine et de Chirurgie Pratiques for June, 1866, gives the following summary as the results of

the lengthy and important discussion on the matter in the Society of Surgery in Paris. It is the form announced by the Society.

- "1. It is now fully demonstrated by statistical returns that puerperal affections are far more frequent, and the mortality much more considerable, in lying-in hospitals than elsewhere.
- "2. The increased mortality, which sometimes reaches a formidable degree of intensity, and is habitually ascribed to the prevalence of epidemic disease, is almost exclusively referable to two causes, viz., the deleterious atmosphere of hospital wards, and perhaps the contagious character of puerperal affections.
- "3. In addition to the general rules of hygiene applicable to all nosocomial institutions, and propounded by the Imperial Society of Surgery (December 14, 1864), the prophylaxy of puerperal diseases and of the mortality they induce, should be based on the measures calculated to counteract infection and avert contagion.
- "4. In order to remove the chances of infection, the most minute and incessant attention to cleanliness is indispensable. When each bed of a Ward shall have been occupied by a woman in labor, the ward should for a time be closed, well ventilated, and the walls and bedding thoroughly purified.
- "5. Contagion is always to be dreaded in a hospital, and if it be found impracticable to allocate a separate room to every woman in labor, the wards should at least be thoroughly accessible to air, without direct communication with each other, and should contain no more than four beds.
- "6. Any woman who presents symptoms of illness after delivery should at once be conveyed to a separate infirmary containing several rooms, each appropriated to one patient only, and attended by a staff of nurses distinct from those of the hospital.
- "7. If, in spite of these precautions, a lying in hospital should be threatened with infectious or contagious disease, all the inmates should as promptly as possible be sent away,

and the entire establishment thoroughly cleansed and ventilated. As the medical officers of the institution are the only competent judges of the amount of the impending danger, and the removal of the inmates requires to be promptly effected, these officials should be invested with full authority in the matter.

"8. Lying-in hospitals should be small; being liable to be more or less frequently evacuated, a sufficient number of institutions should be constructed to secure admission to all who may require it. Although it is not, of course, possible to fix with absolute precision the number of inmates, it would seem desirable not to exceed six or eight hundred confinements annually."

Clinical Inquiries into the influence of the Nervous System on the Production and Prevention of Dropsies, and on the Means and Methods of successful Treatment. By Thomas Laycock, M. D., Professor, etc., University of Edinburgh. (Edinburgh Medical Journal, March and April, 1866.)

Following up a series of investigations which he began a few years since, and the result of which have already been given to the profession, Dr. Laycock here enunciates his views on the pathology of certain classes of dropsies, which are quite at variance with the hitherto generally accepted ideas on the subject, and, indeed, with the exception of Virchow, scarcely entertained by any of our modern pathologists. He analyzes carefully a number of cases in point, and submits the following propositions:

1. That the nervous system, as a whole, or else some special division of it, has a direct influence both on the production and prevention of anasarca. 2. That anasarca is produced when innervation is defective. 3. That anasarca is prevented being manifested locally when the general causes are in operation, by more vigorous because more healthy innervation of the exempted tissues. 4. That centric disease or disorder may have the double effect of facilitating the effusion in one lateral portion of the body and preventing it in the other lateral portion. 5: That production or preven-

tion alike follow upon changes in the innervation, which are induced in the same way and according to the same laws as other neuroses; and finally, 6. That it is not the sensory, motor, or vaso-motor systems which are specially involved.

EDITORIAL.

Medical Education.

How few of the young men now preparing for the profession of medicine have seriously thought of elevating their aspirations to the goal at which every professional man should aim. How many are there, even yet, who are content to assume the responsibilities of medical practice, before they have even acquired the moderate amount of knowledge which is requisite for the degree of doctor of medicine.

If this were a mere question of business, we should have nothing to say. Every one might judge for himself how small an intellectual capital was necessary to be invested in the pursuit by which he is to make a living. But the profession of medicine is not a mere matter of livelihood and revenue to the physician, it is a matter of life or death, of health or misery, to thousands of the community; and the scanty attainments of the physician are not measured merely by the scanty amount of his income, but by the limited amount of health conferred, and longevity enjoyed, by the community who have entrusted their constitutions to his care.

We do not mean to imply that all who practise medicine without diplomas have dishonored their calling, and been less faithful to duty than their graduated brethren. On the contrary, we know that, heretofore, there have been many excuses and reasons for their course which do not now exist, and which would constitute no justification for young men at the present time. In early times, attendance upon the medical schools was difficult and almost impracticable, on account of their distance, the difficulties of travel, expenses, and other objections. A few overcame these difficulties, but a majority could not.

But all these things have passed away. Medical schools are

now within the reach of everybody, and our new movement renders a medical education attainable to all; while the freedom of our principles leaves the mind of the student free from the enslaving power of arbitrary dogmas.

What excuse can a young man offer the community at the present time for engaging in the profession without a thorough education? He cannot say that the expenses are beyond his reach. He cannot say that he prefers to study and practise uncontrolled by the dogmas and errors of schools, for Eclectic reformers desire no servile adherence to their precepts. He cannot say that he prefers a course of private reading to collegiate facilities, for it is well known that private study is much more tedious, expensive, and unsatisfactory than collegiate instruction, which furnishes, at this time, the cheapest possible avenues to professional knowledge. Nor can he reasonably claim that, without collegiate study, his attainments will be such as ought to satisfy a discriminating public. He may consider himself qualified, after a certain amount of reading, and a certain amount of practice, to sustain the responsibility of the profession; but against all such claims there arises in the public mind a strong presumption, based upon the fact that very few, indeed, of those who have not had collegiate advantages attain an honorable standing; while those who have attained respectability in spite of such disadvantages, might have attained an eminent rank if they had done justice to their natural talents by a proper course of instruction and mental discipline.

It is exceedingly difficult for any one to rise to an honorable position with the public, against whom exists the strong prima facie evidence of the fact that he has not regularly finished his professional This fact is a perpetual barrier to his progress and meets education. It continually suggests to strangers the idea that him daily. he belongs to the class who have no other aim in life than to obtain a living by fleecing the public. If he bleeds and gives calomel to propitiate the favor of the physicians, he still fails to win a general respectability. And, if he is in sentiment a reformer, he is denounced without mercy as a quackish ignoramus; and the absence of his diploma is considered good evidence in proof of the charge. Even among those who do not think very highly of medical schools, medical doctrines, and medical diplomas, the absence of a diploma from a regularly chartered medical college, acting in accordance with its charter, is considered a degrading circumstance—a proof that the individual has never completed his medical studies—a proof that he does not care to qualify himself for the performance of his duties, and a confession that he never expects to take rank with the most respectable part of the profession.

Such is the effect upon the public mind and upon the standing of the physician. If possessed of great natural talent, he will make a few friends, who will glorify his success, and, by their flattery, conceal from him the fact that the community at large have no confidence in his medical qualifications; but if he be a shrewd observer, he will discover his true position. Hence it is, that so many, after attempting to practise for a series of years without graduation, have deemed it the best policy to give up a remunerative practice and resort to a medical school, for the sake of obtaining a diploma. Men forty or fifty years of age thus find it necessary to go back and retrieve the error into which they have fallen, by finishing an education which ought to have been finished in their youth.

Let us now suppose that, instead of spending ten or fifteen years in practice before graduation, struggling all that time under disadvantages, and making an inferior reputation, they had graduated at the commencement of their career, which would have cost them even less, as it would not have interrupted their practice, and how much better would have been the result. They would have started on an equal footing with their professional competitors, and might have come out foremost in the race.

Students should bear in mind, too, that it is not only professional standing and reputation which they attain by finishing their studies in a regular manner, but that there is an amount of knowledge attainable by collegiate instruction which they cannot obtain other-Even if the professors have no peculiar, valuable, and original ideas, beyond what the books afford, they have, at least, the power of giving an instruction which the books cannot. Where do we ever see professional men becoming proficient in anatomy without collegiate opportunities? Where do we find a respectable knowledge of chemistry without the demonstrations of the laboratory? Where can we find anything so instructive as a course of clinical lectures and surgical operations? And how can one who is necessarily defective in anatomy, surgery, and chemistry, gain an honorable standing in his profession? But there is something more than all this in collegiate instruction. There are mental discipline and intellectual development gained, which the community can readily appreciate,

and which are indispensable to their conception of the superior

Students frequently remark that they acquire more in their se course of instructions than in their first; and the same is true of third course. Very few are capable, at once, of performing amount of intellectual labor required in attendance upon a med It is only after several months of mental discipline that intellectual faculties become so invigorated, systematized, and panded, as to be able to appropriate at once the great amount of struction which is thrown out in five daily lectures. The min the living teacher continually plays upon the mind of his aud rouses its energies, and develops its natural productiveness, as summer's sun develops the life and beauty of the garden. Hence observe in those who have had all the advantages of a finished a ical education, a marked intellectual superiority to those who i not thus been trained. Their ideas are clear and logical, their j ment prompt, their expressions lucid and felicitous, and their w bearing and conversation convey an idea of superiority, which community can recognize at once, and which gives the individu respectable standing with the leading classes of society.

Why, then, should not every medical man aim at a thore academic and professional course, and commence his profession the highest platform? Why should there be so many incapab writing their prescriptions in good English? and, above all, should any student ever think of practising his profession without first evidence that he has made the right beginning? It ma said that there are quacks with diplomas, and graduates who ! but little standing. But, if fools or knaves dishonor their diple of what benefit is that to the man who has none? If a quack, wi diploma, has but poor standing, surely a quack without a dipl has still less pretensions to respectability. The more the standar graduates is lowered by unworthy representatives, the lower must sink the character of those who have not graduated. Bu young man should set out in life with any such paltry calculati If the profession is worth pursuing at all, it is worth pursuing i honorable manner; if it will repay the expenses of an unfini education, it will far better repay the trifling additional expens a thorough course of study; and if the medical profession is worthy of the trifling expense and outlay of time necessary to a spectable professional education, it ought to be abandoned at our

Progress of the Eclectic Practice.

THE great advancement made in all parts of the country by Eclectic medicine, as exhibited in the constantly increasing number of intelligent and skilful practitioners, who join the ranks of the army of Eclecticism in medicine, many of them from the ranks of opposing schools, is a most gratifying sign of the times. This fact heralds the downfall, at no distant day, of the grim, tyrannous Allopathy, with all its bluster, presumption, bigotry, intolerance, and incapacity. There are hundreds of promising openings in this city, and in all parts of the country, for conscientious, educated, and enterprising eclectic physicians, and we are glad to know that they are being rapidly and worthily occupied. We shall soon gather, in this city alone, a powerful body of hundreds of eclectic practitioners, to take the place of the swarm of old fogy non-progressives of the tottering, and unscrupulous allopathic school, notwithstanding the terrible raid these men have made, and are making, on the City and State Treasuries, to meet the lavish expenses necessary to bolster up their professional rottenness and pretension, at the public cost. Onward is the watchword of Eclecticism. Onward, and still onward! is our The needle-gun of Eclectic medicine will rapidly sweep battle cry. away to the worms and forgetfulness the cold-blooded, poisonous, and inhuman practice called Allopathic medicine, in double-quick The Austrians in medicine will be closed up, reconstructed, or killed off, and the really earnest, humane, and intelligent students of the noble art of healing, thronging to this great metropolitan centre, will seek the pure fountain of medical learning, in the Eclectic Medical College of the city of New York. This institution will open on the date of the issuing of this number of the Eclectic Medical Review, in an appropriate edifice on 26th street, near the Bellevue Hospital. Ample provision has been made for a large class, and every facility will be afforded students to enable them to live cheaply, and to secure every desirable advantage of study, observation, and clinical practice. The progress we have made, and are making, in our practice, denotes that we should graduate from the highest standpoint and platform of professional education, all our future practition-We have now fairly entered the field to test the question of comparative merit and professional supremacy with opposing schools, and the struggle is to end in the absorption of one or the other of the combatants, Eclecticism or Allopathy. Like the "small stone cut

out of a mountain" Eclecticism began, and now her name fills the whole land, her eagles are on every mountain-top, her banners wave over all the cities of the plain, her batteries are manned, and the trumpet tones break in even now with the muttering thunders of the opening conflict. Humanity, and the health of the human race, is the stake for which this battle is joined. Life and death are in the issue. The barbarism of Allopathy must and shall give way to the advancing columns of Eclecticism and the light of the "better day."

Our Text Books.

The Eclectic Medical College will be supplied with the most approved Text Books. Already it has brought out revised editions of Syme's Surgery, with notes and additions, Diseases of Children, and a work on Practice, all by Prof. Robert S. Newton, under the auspices of the Board of Trustees. The Faculty of the College will revise and prepare a complete array of Standard Eclectic Medical Works, embodying all that is of any permanent value in Medical Literature, under the same auspices.

The illiterate compilations that have in too many instances passed as Standard Eclectic authorities will all be laid aside or entirely reconstructed. Already many of the most important positions in Pathology which we have asserted have been accepted and adopted by the ablest foreign practitioners, while very many of our distinctive Eclectic remedies, and much of our Theory and Practice, are being silently assimilated and adopted by the more intelligent, conscientious, and humane physicians of all schools. Verily we have cause to rejoice in view of the brilliant success that has hitherto attended our efforts to push forward at all points the battle flags of the good cause for which we have so long labored. We mean to fight it out on this line until we see our banners float from the loftiest outlook of a great National Eclectic Medical School, with its worldacknowledged and accepted Text Books, a noble and classic Literature which shall be a model of the loftiest humanities in medicine and culture.

Progress of the Epidemic.

Since our last report, cholera has been steadily on the decline in this city. What little there is now is confined to a few filthy locali-

ties, and only attracts a passing notice, even from those most inter-It has also been on the decrease in Cincinnati, since August ested. 10th. Chicago did not escape a severe touch of it; and St. Louis, Memphis, New Orleans, and many of the river towns have been visited quite severely. Its ravages have been felt in Kansas, Arkansas, and other trans-Mississippi States, in an almost incredibly short space of time after its appearance here, owing to the facilities for intercommunication. Wherever the conditions for producing a cholera atmosphere were most developed, there it has spread the most rapidly. It is said to have reappeared among the pilgrims to Mecca, in the Old World, and is advancing northward in Russia. It has scourged the armies of Italy, Austria, and Prussia, and been severely fatal in the great metropolis of London, where it reached its extreme height August 4—on which day a mortality from cholera of 1,053 was reported; since then, it has abated. Thus, it appears that during the present year it is epidemic over an extent of territory limited in the West by the western border States of America; and in the East, far beyond the eastern confines of Europe.

Health Boards and sanitary officers are pretty generally convinced that they have arrived at the cause of propagation of cholera, and have used very commendable diligence in trying to prevent its spread; but they make no advance in the art of curing the disease when it fastens itself upon its victim. The Allopaths, who are generally the appointees to such offices in this country, will not learn anything in that line, unless perchance some oracle in Europe should speak, and then his sayings are accepted most gravely and reverendly. "An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure," they say; and they go on "stamping it out," while the poor fellows who could not help taking the disease, are left with but little hope, under their care, for anything but speedy death. We have occasional information of the comparative death-rate of cholera patients, at the hospitals under their charge. For instance, the following:

The New York Tribune of August 22d, under the head of Public Health, says:

* * * "From the 20th of July to the 20th of August, inclusive, thirty-three patients were treated in the Red House Hospital, of whom nineteen died, nine were discharged, while five remained at the latter date. This shows a mortality of 57.8 per centum, nearly. In the Battery Barracks Hospital, from July 26th to August 18th, inclusive, ninety-six patients were treated, of whom

fifty-eight died, and twenty-seven were discharged, leaving eleven under treatment, under date of last report. This gives a mortality of little more than 60.5 per centum. We have sufficient proof, however, that the mortality in hospitals is very great, and that prevention is vastly preferable to cure."

The same paper of August 15th says:

"Last week only fifty-two cases of cholera were reported at the office of the Sanitary Superintendent, of which nearly one half recovered; but during the same period, twenty-eight persons died in two cholera-hospitals established by the Board of Health. these, fifty-two persons died of cholera, as shown by death certificates, in the private practice of physicians of the city. It will therefore be seen, that those who died under the hands of physicians, were not reported to the Board of Health, during their sickness. thermore, it is not at all likely, that all who sickened of cholera, whom private practitioners were called upon to attend, died; for the statistics of all epidemics show that fifty per centum of all who are attacked by this disease recover. Thus, at least fifty-two cases of cholera must necessarily have occurred in the city of New York during the past week, none of which were reported to the Board of As the facts now stand, however, all who were attacked health. died, which argues either a gross violation of the Health Law by the medical fraternity, on the one hand, or utter incompetency and great lack of skill on the other."

We have already reported the acknowledged fatality of the Allopathic treatment of cholera in the Ward's Island Hospital, last fall, where, out of thirty-one cases of epidemic cholera treated, twenty-seven died.

Compare all this with the result of the Eclectic treatment of this disease in Cincinnati, in 1849, in which 95½ per centum, on an average, in private practice, got well; and 75½ per centum in the hospitals under their charge were saved, and it will be seen to which practice the public may, with the greatest confidence, trust the safe-keeping of their health in times of such danger.

Chickering's Grand Pianos.

THESE superb instruments are beyond all question or doubt the most perfect, in all respects, of any Grand Pianos that have ever been produced in this country or Europe. Their capacity is unlim-

ited to meet all the requirements of the most exhaustive performer on this class of instruments.

It is the undoubted choice of the world's most renowned Pianists visiting this country, and it has carried the name of Chickering into the home of millions, and into the hearts of all who possess the appreciative qualities of a sensitive and sympathetic ear, who may have heard its delicious and delicate tones.

Under the magic fingers of Wehli and Richard Hoffman, at the matinees at Wallack's Theatre in this city, and at the delightful Poznanski concerts, last Spring, the Chickering Grand Pianos gave to music a new expression—an electric splendor of utterances, that has never been excelled. While listening on these never-to-be-forgotten occasions, we felt a glow—a baptism of the soul in the very essence of the divinest melody.

The following significant letter from Broadwood, the greatest Piano Forte manufacturer in England, speaks far more conclusively and eloquently for the unquestionable supremacy of the Chickering Grand Piano than any thing we can possibly say:

London, August 22d, 1866.

JAMES M. WEHLI, ESQ.:

My Dear Sir—As you are going back to the United States, I must beg you to remember me kindly to the Messrs. Chickering. Tell them I was delighted with their Grand Piano Forte—as good an instrument, I think, as was ever turned out, both in touch and tone.

Wishing you, &c.,

I remain ever truly,
H. F. BROADWOOD,

Firm of I. Broadwood & Sons, Piano-Forte Manufacturers, London.

NEWS AND MISCELLANY.

Constitution of the Eclectic Medical Society of the State of New York.

In accordance with an Act of the Legislature, passed April 24, 1865, Incorporating the Eclectic Medical Society of the State of New York, and Auxiliary Societies; We, whose names are underwritten, believing in Fraternal Association, cherishing a spirit of harmony, and claiming freedom of thought aud action, in accordance with the enlightened policy and principles of our Government; believing unqualifiedly in the use of those medicinal remedies which are safe, sanative and efficient, and that the exhibition of Antimonials, Mercurials, venesection and other poisonous and destructive agencies is unjustifiable, and that their use cannot be sanctioned by reason, science, common sense or experience; reserving to ourselves, and according to others, the sacred privilege of choosing remedies and modes of treatment from any, and all sources of medical knowledge, guided by the dictates of experience and judgment enlightened by a proper and intimate knowledge of the various branches comprehending the Art and Science of Medicine, and the collat-

eral sciences; we do, therefore, unite ourselves in this Association, and agree to constitute the Society, whose name is above written, and which is duly incorporated by the enactment of the Legislature of the State, and we do hereby adopt, and agree to be governed by this Constitution, and these By-Laws.

The objects of this Society shall be, to promote harmony and fraternity among the members of the profession of medicine; to labor for the elevation and advancement of Medical Science, and the Art of Healing the Sick; to discourage among its membership, those sectarian influences, and that associational bigotry and dictation which have too often prevented that free interchange of thought and intelligence which should characterize every enlightened class of people; to cultivate an intelligent Eclecticism in medicine, which comprises not only a thorough knowledge of the subject, but embodies the principle of employing those remedies and measures alone that are safe and efficient in the treatment of disease, that can be used without endangering life, or impairing the constitution of the patient, refusing as dangerous and unnecessary the use of corrosive and inorganic poisons; to examine all systems and theories without bias or prejudice, adopt the truthful in each, that which will bear the tests of reason and experience, and reject all that fails to coincide with scientific facts, and is not in harmony with nature and the laws thereof.

BY-LAWS

Of the Eclectic Medical Society of the State of New York.

ARTICLE I.—Membership.

SECTION 1.—This Society shall consist of the present membership, those whose names are upon the record of the organization, known as the Eclectic Medical Society of the State of New York, and the number may be increased to three members from each county in the State, except New York and Kings, which shall be entitled respectively to twelve members from each county, who shall constitute the Society, till the annual session in the year one thousand eight hundred and sixty-six (1866), after which the Society may add to its membership annually, five each from the New York and Kings county societies, and two from each other county or district society, which is Auxiliary to the State Society, who shall have been delegates to the State Society, and been duly nominated by the Auxiliary Society to which they belong. They shall be elected by ballot, when they shall become members by signing the Constitution and By-Laws, and paying an initiation fee of five dollars each. If three or more ballots appear against a candidate, he shall be rejected. These shall constitute the permanent members of the Society.

SEC. 2.—Delegates to the number of four, from each Auxiliary Society, except New York and Kings, which are entitled to ten respectively, and two from each Eclectic Medical College in the State, are admitted to each annual session of the society, and entitled to all the rights and privileges of the permanent members, and are allowed to vote upon all questions before the meetings, except the election of officers.

ARTICLE II .- County Societies.

SECTION 1.—County, and other sectional societies, whose purposes are in unison with this, may be organized upon call of any member of this Society, who is a resident of the county or district in which the call is made, subject to the approval and sanction of this Society, and which

when duly organized, shall be Auxiliary to the State Society, and be entitled to send four delegates, except the county societies of New York and Kings, which may respectively send ten delegates, and each Eclectic Medical College in the State may send two delegates to each annual session, and shall contribute annually five dollars to the State Society.

Such Societies when organized and sanctioned, shall elect a President and other officers, and shall file in the office of the Clerk of the county, where such meeting shall be held, a copy of the Constitution, By-Laws,

and proceedings had at such meeting.

SEC. 2. Such Societies may hold stated meetings, as often as they see proper, present papers, and hold discussions upon medical or surgical subjects, and transact such other business as may be necessary, and all medical papers so presented shall become the property of the State Society, and be sent to the Secretary for publication in its annual transactions, also a list of the officers and members of the said county or district society for the same purpose.

ARTICLE III.—Election of Officers.

Section 1. At each annual meeting, the Society shall elect by ballot, a President, Vice-President, Recording Secretary, Corresponding Secretary, and Treasurer, who by virtue of their offices, shall constitute a Board of Directors, to whom shall be intrusted the corporate affairs and general business of the Society, when it is not in session. There shall also be elected, eight censors, one from each judicial district in the State. The election of all officers shall be decided by a plurality of votes after the first formal ballot, if that ballot fails to elect by a majority, and they shall continue in office till their successors are chosen.

ARTICLE IV.—Duties of Officers.

SECTION 1. The President shall have a casting vote in case of a tie. At each annual meeting, he shall appoint an Orator, to deliver an address at the next annual meeting, also three essayists to report on some subject, at the next regular meeting. His other duties shall be such as usually appertain to presiding officers.

SEC. 2. The Vice-President will perform the duties of the President,

when the latter officer is absent from the chair.

SEC. 3. The Recording Secretary shall keep a record of the proceedings of the Society, receive all moneys, and pay the same to the treasurer, sign all credentials and certificates of membership, and issue notices of regular meetings, and cause one to be sent to each member, and the President of each Auxiliary Society, annually report the amount of money received and disbursed, together with such other items as may be of interest to the Society.

SEC. 4. The Corresponding Secretary will assist in keeping the minutes of the Society, and conduct and have charge of all correspond-

ence of the Society.

SEC. 5. The Treasurer shall receive, and have charge of all moneys belonging to the Society, and pay all bills, and only such as have been audited by the Board of Directors, and annually submit his report to the Society. If required, he shall execute to the Board of Directors, sufficient bonds and security for the faithful performance of his duties.

SEC. 6. The Board of Directors shall have power to fill all vacancies, audit all bills, procure a seal, secure suitable rooms for the accommodation of the Society, and transact such other business as may be neces-

sary, when the Society is not in session.

ARTICLE V.—Meetings.

The annual meeting of this Society shall be held on the second Wednesday of June, in each year, at such place as the Society shall from time to time appoint.

ARTICLE VI.—Quorum.

Fifteen members may constitute a quorum of the Society. Three Directors may constitute a quorum of the Board, provided each Director shall have been notified of the time and place of meeting.

ARTICLE VII.— Vertificate of Membership.

A Certificate of Membership may be issued by the Board of Directors, and a copy bearing the signatures of the President, Vice-President and Secretary, and seal of the Society, furnished to each member, on the payment of five dollars for the same.

ARTICLE VIII.—Qualifications of Members.

The censors shall examine candidates for membership, which candidate may be a "Doctor of Medicine," a Practitioner who has sustained a reputable practice for four years, and whose character for intelligence, virtue and patriotism is without reproach, and who is eligible according to Sec. 1, Art. 1, of the By-Laws, and duly nominated by the District Society to which he belongs.

ARTICLE IX.—Honorary Members.

The Society shall have the privilege of electing annually, not more than six eminent physicians as honorary members, who shall have been duly nominated at the previous annual meeting, and who shall be non-residents of the State, (but six may be elected at the annual meeting in 1866, who shall not have been nominated a year previous.)

ARTICLE X.—Expulsion of Members.

Any member may be officially censured, invited to withdraw, or be expelled from the Society for improper or unprofessional conduct, by a vote of four-fifths of the permanent members present at a regular meeting, provided that a specific charge has been made in writing, and the accused duly notified thereof.

ARTICLE XI.—Amendments.

Proposals to alter or amend the Constitution, or By-Laws, shall be presented in manuscript, and read at a regular meeting, when it shall lie over till the next annual meeting, unless there is a unanimous desire to act upon it immediately; but no alteration shall at any time be made, except by a vote of two-thirds of all the members present.

ARTICLE XII.—Order of Business.

- 1. Calling to order, and reading the Roll.
- 2. Receiving the names of Delegates.
- 3. Reading the minutes of last previous meeting.
- 4. Reading Reports of Secretaries and Treasurer.
- 5. Reading an exhibit of the Board of Directors.
- 6. Receiving Proposals for Membership.
- 7. Balloting for Candidates.
- 8. Reports of Committees.

- 9. Election of Officers.
- 10. Recess.
- 11. Reading Essays and Discussions.
- 12. Appointments for the ensuing year.
- 18. Annual Address.
- 14. Adjournment.

VERMONT STATE ECLECTIC MEDICAL SOCIETY.

The first semi-annual meeting of the Vermont State Eclectic Medical Society will be held at the American House, Montpelier, Vermont, Thursday, the 18th day of October, 1866, at ten o'clock in the forenoon. Addresses will be delivered, and Essays will be presented by several members of the Society. Eminent members of the Profession are invited to attend and participate in the meeting. (We hope to be present on that occasion.—Ed. R.)

82D SENATORIAL DISTRICT ECLECTIC MEDICAL SOCIETY.

The following resolutions were unanimously adopted by the Thirty Second Senatorial District Eclectic Medical Society, at the recent meeting, held Sept. 4th, 1866:

Resolved, That the committee of five appointed at the meeting of May last, to confer with the legislators from the Thirty-Second Senatorial District, and make suitable representations to them respecting the just claims of Eclecticism, be instructed to extend their conference to the Governor of the State.

Resolved, That these officials be requested to concede to the Eclectic Branch of the Medical Profession, in all their public acts, equal rights, privileges and immunities, with any other branch of the profession.

Resolved, That said Committee be instructed to confer with the candidates for said offices before the coming November election, and report to the Secretary in time for him to notify the members of the Society of the result of said conference before said election.

Resolved, That this Society reaffirm its sympathy heretofore expressed with the establishment of the Eclectic Medical College of New York City, and the American Eclectic Medical Review, and the men who are energetically at work for their advancement; and that we pledge our practical support of both.

Resolved, That we feel mentally benefited, professionally and socially invigorated by the present meeting, and that we will use our active influence to make the succeeding meetings full in attendance, and rich in matters of professional interest.

BOOKS AND JOURNALS RECEIVED.

Thirteenth Annual Report of Board and Managers of the North Western Dispensary.

Lindsay and Blakiston's Catalogue of Works on Medicine, Surgery, and the Collateral Sciences, for the Fall of 1866.

The Medical Reporter, St. Louis.

Eclectic Medical Journal of Cincinnati, September, 1866. Buffalo Medical and Surgical Journal, September, 1866.

Dental Cosmos, September, 1866.

Medical and Surgical Monthly (Memphis) July, 1866. Boston Medical and Surgical Journal, Sept. 6th, 1866.

AMERICAN

ECLECTIC MEDICAL REVIEW;

A Monthly Record of Medicine

AND

THE COLLATERAL SCIENCES.

Vol. I.

NOVEMBER, 1866.

No. 6.

ORIGINAL COMMUNICATIONS.

Practical Hints on the Prevalent Fevers of the West and their Treatment.

BY C. T. HART, M. D.

Every country physician practises under serious disadvantages. He has to transport his own medicines, his supply is limited, and he is often annoyed to find that the remedy he needs to meet a certain indication cannot be procured. Under such circumstances, he soon selects a few remedies, which his experience teaches him are most reliable, and lays aside everything else. I have thought that an exchange of "experiences" through the journals would be beneficial, in enabling one practitioner—particularly the younger members of the medical fraternity—to employ the treatment which another, by repeated trial, has demonstrated to be reliable. Particularly will this be useful, if the agents used are cheap and easily transported. Hence, in this article, I do not intend to dwell upon the symptoms, pathology, &c., of fevers, but to point out briefly some of the diagnostic features of the prevalent forms in the Red River and Arkansas valleys, and give the treatment which I have found to be most efficient.

The prevalent fevers of these western river valleys are generally of miasmatic origin. I have never seen a case of Vol. I.—No. 6.

genuine typhoid or typhus, as described in text-books, and noticed in the Eastern States. In no instance have I ever discovered sudamina or petechiæ, though at certain times all the diseases are prone to assume the adynamic type. They may be conveniently classed under four heads: intermittent, remittent, pernicious or congestive, and continued.

I will briefly notice each in order.

Intermittents are very common. Most families, when supplied with medicine, rarely apply to the physician. They are often allowed, however, to continue until they become chronic, or occasion serious organic changes in important Simple chill cannot be mistaken, and yields readily viscera. to anti-periodics. The only practical point to be observed is not to waste Quinine by giving it on a foul stomach and loaded bowels. My plan is first to cleanse the alimentary canal with an emetic and cholagogue cathartic. The safest, simplest, cheapest, and most efficient emetic I find to be the chloride of sodium; and have long since abandoned every other. It seems peculiarly adapted to biliary affections; neutralizes the acridity of the bile; cuts the tenacious, ropy mucus always accumulated in the stomach, and excites the mucous follicles and glands of the prima via to more healthy action. Give a teaspoonful, dissolved in a glass of cold water. Wait fifteen minutes and repeat the dose. In ten minutes commence the use of tepid water, and let it be drunk in large quantities. If emesis does not rapidly follow, give more salt, and more warm water, and continue their administration until vomiting or purging ensues. I think that an active cathartic effect is more beneficial than the simple emetic. No danger of prostration attends the use of salt. After the emetic, give a cathartic. The patient is now ready for B. Quiniæ Sulph. grs. xv. Piperin or Capsici grs. x. Mix. Div. Chart. No. iij. Commence nine hours before the expected paroxysm, and give one powder every three hours.

When chills become chronic—and such cases are numerous—Quinine fails to make a permanent cure, and much of the costly drug is unnecessarily wasted. From repeated

trials, I can recommend Strychnine as nearly a specific. After breaking up a paroxysm as above described, give, B Strychniæ grs. iij. Acidi Acet. 3 i. Tr. Capsici 3 iij. Aqua Ziiiss. Mix. Of this a teaspoonful three times a day. In stubborn cases the addition of ten grains of sulphate of zinc will increase the efficacy of the mixture. When, however, organic changes have taken place, and the patient presents himself with an immensely enlarged spleen, with chronic irritation of the liver and intestinal glands, with tumid abdomen, sallow, waxy skin, and anxious expression, the foregoing treatment will accomplish nothing. Indeed, I may say that, although I have labored faithfully, so far, I have been unable to discover any plan of medication which has been at all satisfactory, or sufficiently reliable to merit a description. I recommend a change to a mountainous district, believing that medicine will avail but little in this cli-And I request, en passant, that every physician who has been even tolerably successful in reducing enlarged spleen, will give his plan of treatment through the Review.

Remittent fevers are very prevalent in these western valleys. They are generally of the purely bilious type, with the broad, flabby tongue, heavily furred with a yellow coat; distinct remissions, and stomach always loaded with bile. Sometimes the bile is of a deep green color and very acrid. These cases are always attended with incessant and trouble-some vomiting. No time need be thrown away by a resort to palliatives. Administer a salt-water emetic at once, and apply a blister over the epigastrium. If the vomiting continues, a little Morphine sprinkled on the blistered surface will invariably control it.

These uncomplicated cases of bilious fever yield readily to the treatment described for intermittents. I commence giving the Quinine powders about nine hours before the expected remission, the first dose consisting of five grains of quinine and one fourth of a grain of morphine. I give this when there is high fever, headache, pains in the back and limbs, and great restlessness. It acts like a charm. With the application of cold water to the head, and a hot pedilu-

vium, the patient soon becomes quiet, the skin moist, with rapid abatement of febrile symptoms.

The next class—the congestive chill or pernicious fever—is the scourge of this country. More persons die from it than from any other prevalent disease. It is insidious, rapid, deadly; often commencing as a simple chill, and terminating fatally in six hours. The attack is usually preceded by two light chills. It often happens that the patient and friends are unconscious of the danger; and the physician—particularly a young practitioner—often fails to recognize the congestion in its early stage, and allows important, precious time to slip away. Too much caution cannot be adopted.

The congestion centres upon different organs—the brain, lungs, stomach, and bowels—sometimes prominently upon one; at others, on several at once. When upon the brain, we find stupor, cold extremities, and cold sweat; no pulse at the wrist, while the carotids are thumping away at the rate of 160 or 170 per minute. When the lungs are the seat of the attack, the mind is clear; the previous symptoms are present, with some dyspnœa, and frequent sighing. Sighing, restlessness, and anxiety, without any special pain, should at once excite suspicion, and lead to a rigid examination. They are always present, and are harbingers of the approach of this terrible malady. When the stomach and bowels are congested, in addition to the foregoing symptoms, there is generally excessive vomiting, and purging of bloody serum, with insatiable thirst. Indeed, thirst is a prominent symptom in all the forms. The purging is often enormous, though sometimes it is absent. In the latter cases, the bowels are excessively hot to the touch.

There seems to be a great similarity between cholera and congestive chill. In the one case, a specific choleraic poison, and in the other an intensified miasm being introduced into the circulation, excite a zymotic action in the blood-mass, which, thus altered and deteriorated, is unable to supply healthy nutriment to the various tissues. The delicate structures of the organic nervous centres, which control capillary circulation, and all the organs of secretion and

excretion, first feel the impression, and lose vitality. The viscera becoming inert, blood accumulates therein, while the heart fruitlessly labors to force it onward. Hence the rapid pulsations of the carotids, while none are perceptible at the wrist. The relaxed condition of the capillaries, from a loss of nerve-force, admits the passive transudation of the serous portions of the blood from the skin and mucous surfaces, and profuse sweating and watery dejections are the result. The intense cold arises from the check put to the vital transformation of the tissues—the true generator of animal heat—and the rapid evaporation from the surface.

The congestion being thus the result of depression of the organic nervous centres, the indications in the treatment are twofold: first, to establish reaction; and second, to prevent a recurrence of the paroxysm. The nervous system must be aroused, and circulation reëstablished in the extremities by the use of the most powerful stimulants and revulsives.

The following plan of treatment may be adopted with fair prospect of success, if begun in time: At once order a hot pediluvium made very strong with red pepper; and a number of bottles to be filled with hot water. If vomiting and purging exist, give salt-water freely. It frequently stops the purging speedily. If not, use an astringent injec-Rub the spine its entire length with hot turpentine until the skin is thoroughly reddened. This is an efficient agent, and should never be neglected. Bathe the thighs and legs in strong liniment; immerse the feet in the hot pepper tea, covering the tub and legs with a blanket; place the bottles around the lower extremities and body; apply cataplasms to the wrists, and have the hands and arms thoroughly rubbed with dry mustard. In the meantime stimulants must be freely used. Hunn's Life Drops, and tinct. xanthoxylum, equal parts, answers a good purpose. Give a teaspoonful or more every twenty minutes, and large doses of quinine every hour. Continue this course until reaction is fully established. It sometimes fails. In one case I used cold water. The patient was stripped, laid on the floor, and

several buckets of water dashed over his body. He was then wrapped in blankets, and dry heat applied. The body soon became warm, but the patient suddenly died, the heart ceasing to beat, apparently from depression following long-continued overaction. For eight hours previously the pulsations of the carotids were so rapid, they could with difficulty be counted. I think if the cold water had been employed earlier the result would have been different.

Ten drops each of chloroform and turpentine may often be employed with advantage as a stimulant.

Reaction once established, the patient's life depends on the free use of quinine. Give it unsparingly. If the stomach is irritable, administer it per rectum and by inunction.

Continued fever is of frequent occurrence; and in some seasons all the diseases tend to assume an adynamic type. It yields to judicious treatment, generally, in from ten to twelve days. It can be readily detected by careful observation at the outset. The appearance of the tongue is an infallible index. In intermittent and remittent this organ is broad, flabby, and coated yellow, or brown. In the first stage of continued fever it has a white fur, is somewhat pointed, with reddish tip, and is protruded with a slightly nervous tremor. As the disease advances it becomes dry, of a dull red, and is studded on the tips and surface with florid papillæ. These papillæ are prominent, of a bright crimson color, resembling florid red beads upon a dark red groundwork. At the same time, by kneading the bowels, distinct crepitation can be heard. There is also tenderness on pressure over the abdomen, with tendency to diarrhœa.

I have been somewhat particular in describing the appearance of the tongue and condition of the bowels, as they are important diagnostic symptoms, and much depends on an early recognition of the disease.

In treating continued fever, avoid quinine. It is positively injurious. When employed, the tongue becomes dryer and redder, tympanitis supervenes, diarrhæa becomes unmanageable, and the patient gradually sinks. After gently cleaning the stomach and bowels, give two teaspoonfuls of

a saturated solution of chlorate of potash and ten drops of turpentine every six hours. Bathe the surface frequently in soda-water and whiskey; change the bedding and clothing often. Sustain with light but nutritions diet; allow the free use of lemonade, and if there is much depression, a little wine with a bitter tonic, as infusion of hydrastis or gentian.

The above treatment may be relied upon. I have long since discarded everything except the chlorate of potash and turpentine in the management of this form of fever, and can safely recommend them.

WALNUT HILL, Ark., Sept. 26th, 1866.

Acute Inflammatory Rheumatism—Treatment of Acute Pleuritis.

BY PROF. ROBT. S. NEWTON, M. D.

(Extract from the Eelectic Practice of Medicine, by Robert S. Newton, M. D.,—now in press.)

Causes.—The remote cause is to be sought in the organization, upon which we commented in the outset. We may here add, that in acute rheumatic subjects, there is a high endowment of the cerebello-spinal and ganglionic systems the dymamic and active forces both exist in high degree. Professor Wood, after speaking of cold as the most frequent exciting cause, adds: "But something more is requisite than cold. There must also be a peculiar state of the system predisposing to this form of disease. There must be a rheumatic diathesis. In what this diathesis consists, has not been discovered. There are no signs by which its existence can be detected with an approach to certainty." Whatever our readers may think of our opinions on this subject, it is certain that they cannot charge us with being more ignorant than our brethren. We admit that cold is the most frequent exciting cause, and so it is of phthisis, chronic rheumatism, and of many other forms of disease, but not in similar organizations. The same exciting cause, in our opinion, may develop phthisis in one, acute rheumatism in a second, chronic rheumatism in a third, and pericarditis in a fourth; and we are far from being sure that all of these forms of disease may not, like the presence of adeps, become spontaneously developed. Between fat, fibrin, and tubercle, there is sufficient analogy to justify the inference.

Diagnosis.—It is next to impossible to confound acute rheumatism with any other form of disease except the gout, and in well-marked cases there need to be no difficulty in this case; but it is true, that cases are sometimes seen in which it is very nearly impossible to diagnose them. Gout is most generally associated with digestive derangement, and confined to the small joints—in neither respect is this the case with rheumatism. Gout is furthermore, more paroxysmal, periodic, and remittent, and attended by a more severe pain, a greater redness and tumefaction of the part.

Prognosis.—So long as rheumatism maintains its simple form, its prognosis must be regarded as favorable; but when it implicates the brain or the heart, it becomes associated with danger. It usually terminates favorably by resolution, yet in a few instances, where the constitution is more remarkable for its active than its dynamic forces, it terminates in suppuration, forming abscesses in the intermuscular tissues.

TREATMENT.—Perhaps there is no disease or condition of the system which more clearly indicates the use of the spirit vapor-bath, than the one under consideration, and which should be employed on the first appearance of the disease; and here let me impress upon the mind of the practitioner the necessity for prompt action in this matter. The patient should be advised to inhale the vapor as it rises under the blanket, until free and copious perspiration is produced, and in fact, until complete relaxation of the system takes place, which will be manifested by difficulty of breathing, or a sensation of syncope. At this stage of the treatment, provided the above conditions have been produced, the covering may be removed from the head of the patient, who may

be allowed to inhale the natural atmosphere. If the symptoms of relaxation should then pass off, without having to place him in a recumbent position, the vapor-bath may be continued for at least half an hour longer. The patient should be subjected to this kind of treatment twice the first day, and if this is carried out and the patient is made to perspire freely until the above effects are produced, all constriction of the system is removed, and the disease is thrown off by establishing a healthy depuration. As soon as this is done the patient should be packed in blankets and kept in that condition, according to the rule laid down by Dr. Chambers, which, in our hands, has proved equally successful.

"BEDDING.—It is impossible to make too much account of the value of absolute rest and an evenly high temperature to the skin in rheumatic fever. They are worth all the other means of relief put together. Since I have succeeded in getting our nurses to adopt them as a universal rule in every case of rheumatic fever, without exception, I have had hardly any patients to treat for inflammation of the heart.

"The rationale of the action of warmth is very simple. Rheumatic inflammation is an injury to nutrition which is entirely compensated for by the restored function on return to health. Pain may be cited as a proof of beneficent design in God's laws as shown in disease; it is a warning to withhold one's self from that which evokes it. The pain of rheumatism is a call to voluntary absolute rest. the joints this is easily obtained, and, under any treatment you hardly ever see disorganizing inflammation begin in a joint after a patient has once taken to his bed. But there is one organ whose business admits of no rest;—the heart must needs keep beating at whatever cost;—and the heart accordingly is well known to be fatally apt to be struck with common fibrinous inflammation at all stages of rheumatic fever. Taking a lesson from what I have noticed in the joints, I try and assist the heart to attain, not of course the Utopia of absolute rest, but the nearest approach to absolute rest that is within the bounds of possibility.

"Perhaps you may think the object would be gained by simple confinement to bed or the horizontal posture. It is not so. Next to jumping and running, there is nothing gives the heart so much work to do as alternations of heat and cold. Let the physiologist observe the healthy organ, let the physician examine it in a state of disease, and they will find that a change of temperature on the surface of the body is followed by a longer and stronger stroke as felt by the finger, by a longer and stronger sound as heard by the ear in the cardiac region. The interval between the strokes is shortened; and thus is encroached upon the only wink of sleep the hard-working muscle ever indulges in.

"CURATIVE MEDICINES.—With unimportant exceptions, I have treated every patient for the last seven years with bicarbonate of potash, having evidence of its power to shorten and alleviate the disease from daily experience as well as from the statistical deductions of Dr. Garrod.* In a great majority of the cases very rapid relief commences with the commencement of the treatment, and continues permanent. But in a certain number no effect appears to be produced, sometimes even after the urine has been made In a few of these there has been committed a alkaline. pardonable error of diagnosis,—the patient is gouty. few we are deceived by gonorrheal rheumatism, a disease allied to pyæmia, and requiring quite different management. Still there are a certain number of instances where true rheumatic inflammation is very obstinate and does not yield to the alkaline method. And in these you will find the periosteum and perichondrium affected. When the patient, then, after five or six days of the alkaline treatment is no better, or but little better, I add, as I told you, iodide of potassium to the potash, and in a few days more continue the iodide alone during the convalescence. course, if I am enabled to make this condition of the periosteum out at the first visit, I begin such treatment forthwith.

^{*} It will be seen in a subsequent lecture (xiii. in this volume) that I have seen reason to hesitate as to the force of this evidence.—Chambers.

"Between June 1851 and Christmas 1863 there have been in the wards under my care at St. Mary's 257 cases of rheumatic fever. Of these (cases still remaining under treatment on Christmas day not being included)—

26 were treated with 3 j of nitre three times a day; -

174 were treated with bicarbonate of potash—viz.,

141 with ∋j, or more, every two hours;— 33 with a less quantity;—

- 32 were treated, during the first year, in various other ways;—
- 25 (that is to say, all since May last) have had none of these supposed curative drugs; only a little opium when the pain was very severe, and a purgative when the bowels were too costive.

"No section of cases was made, but each method was adopted in every case for a time.

"1. Results of Drugs on the Duration of Illness.

- "Of the 26 treated with nitre the mean stay in hospital was 40.0 days.
- "Of the 141 treated with the Dj bihoral doses of bicarbonate of potash, the mean stay in hospital was 34.3 days.
- "Of the 33 treated with less quantities of the potash, the mean stay in hospital was 40.0 days.
- "Of the 25 treated without curative drugs the mean stay in hospital was 27.7 days.
- "If we exclude the last class, which is as yet imperfect for statistical purposes, as it does not include examples of all the four seasons, it would seem that, though smaller doses exert no effect, yet that full doses of the bicarbonate of potash have some influence in shortening the duration of the illness from the time of commencing the treatment to that of the patients being sufficiently convalescent to return to their usual occupations with safety.
- "I may remark here, that any other measure of the duration of the disease is untrustworthy for the purpose of

Suppose you say you will measure its accurate statistics. length by the continuation of pain or by the presence of the visible external phenomena of tumefaction, &c., you will find yourself balked in actual practice. The different degrees of susceptibility to pain exhibited by different patients, the desire of some to extenuate, of others to exaggerate their sufferings, makes it impossible to register truly even the exact day when the pain ceases. Whereas, in such a short period as it lasts after the commencement of treatment (namely, two or three days usually), the exact hour would require to be noted. It is equally impossible to measure when, or even whether, the swelling or redness is all gone; for what to one student's eye is morbid color, to another's is the normal hue, and a limb which to the patient's sensation is swelled, judging by the weight it feels, is often seen to be of its natural size. Those who have set clinical clerks to observe these facts know how little the best case-books are to be relied on."

"2. Effects of Medicine on the Consequences of the Illness.

"In respect of their several preservative powers against the consequences of rheumatic fever—

"Of the 26 treated with nitre, there were attacked with acute inflammation of the heart whilst under treatment (carefully excluding all those admitted with it already existing as a result of the current attack) 5, or 19.2 per cent. (4 cases of pericarditis, 1 endocarditis only); 4 have died—2 of inflammation of the heart, and 2 of sloughing back.

"Of the 174 treated with bicarbonate of potash, there were attacked with inflammation of the heart, 9, or only 5.3 per cent.; none have died.

"It would seem from this, at first sight, as if bicarbonate of potash had some preservative force. But the fact is, that nearly all of those treated by the alkaline method have been subjected also to what both rational physiology and the statistics following seem to show has a much more powerful

influence than any other remedy in keeping the heart free from inflammation. I refer to blanketing the patients.

"3. Effects of Blanketing.

"Up to May, 1855, no difference was made in the bedding of my patients with rheumatic fever from that of others in the ward; but after that date they were ordered to be rolled up in blankets, and no linen was let touch the skin. In nearly every case the orders were strictly obeyed.

"Of 63, either bedded in sheets, or who had wilfully thrown off their blankets, 6 contracted newly pericarditis at least, if not endocarditis as well; 8 had relapses of pericarditis on old cardiac lesions; 1 had endocarditis alone; on the whole 10, or nearly 16 per cent., had inflammation of the heart, and 4 died.

"Of 184 in blankets, none have contracted newly pericarditis; none have died; 1 had a relapse of pericarditis on old cardiac lesions; 5 had endocarditis alone; 1 a relapse of endocarditis on old cardiac lesion.

"One of these included cases of pericarditis was brought on during convalescence by the patient being doused with cold water for an accidental hysteric fit.

"Not 4 per cent. have had any acute affection of the heart; when it came it was of a milder character, and was generally to be accounted for by some imprudent exposure.

"That is to say, that bedding in blankets reduces from 16 to 4, or by a good three quarters, the risk of inflammation of the heart run by patients in rheumatic fever, diminishes the intensity of the inflammation when it does occur, and diminishes still further the danger of death by that or any other lesion; and at the same time it does not protract the convalescence."

Of gonorrheal rheumatism, he says: "If left alone, and allowed to be ingrained into the constitution it becomes very obstinate of cure, and doubtless would have done so in this instance, unless the patient had been submitted to active treatment at this early stage. Now you

see it is more manageable, but still by no means so easy of cure as ordinary rhenmatism or gout.

"As to the rationale of the treatment. The reason for its adoption is experience of its good effects, the little effect which other treatment has, and the certainty that the tendency of the disease is to get worse and worse if left alone. My conjectural explanation of its action is as follows: I suspect the cause of the disease to be a virus especially fatal to the vital functions of the white non-vascular tissues, which is carried to them from the urethra by the blood. The partial loss of vitality in these white tissues causes congestion and inflammation in the neighboring capillaries, with pains and extra vascular accumulation of serum. leeching and fomentations act upon the inflammation, and the iodide of potassium directly as a restorative to the white tissues; as to the starving, I do not know what to say—perhaps it does good by promoting absorption—perhaps it is not so requisite as we suppose."

"(Clinical, St. Mary's, February 6th, 1864.)

"The sequence of rheumatism after gonorrheea seems to depend more upon the diathesis of the individual attacked than upon any peculiarity of the infecting virus: for, while some have the urethral part of the affection over and over again and suffer no further, there are others who never contract the slightest purulent discharge without the limbs being afterwards crippled."

The above treatment will, in most cases, remove the disease in from two to five days, especially when adopted in its early stage. If there be much pain and irritability of the nervous system, it will be necessary to make use of the following: Sulphate of Quinine, Gelseminum, Macrotin, Aconite, Veratrin, Com. Pow. Ipecac. and Opium, according to the circumstances of the case; and, as a general thing, they should be used until the febrile symptoms are removed.

We regard active purgation unnecessary; but, inasmuch

as we frequently find more or less gastric derangement, accompanied with hepatic torpor, we use the Podophyllin, Leptandrin, Caulophyllin, Irisin, and Stillingin, in alterative doses, and so soon as the bowels become in a relaxed condition, their use should be discontinued.

As regards local measures, we think all that is necessary. in this disease, is to make use of flannel bandages, as well as to dress the patient with flannel, and keep him in bed. We do not believe that the various liniments and cataplasms recommended, are of much use.

Upon examination, if there be found much tenderness of any part of the spinal column indicating complications, we make use of active counter-irritants. As a rule in practice we always use the anodynes in sufficient quantities to give the patient ease from pain; if the Gelseminum and Veratrin are continued with the opiate, this will be much more easily accomplished. Should there be any symptoms of a metastasis to the heart or lungs, active means should be used to prevent it, such as immersing the feet and hands in hot water, and vesication over the part originally affected, with Aqua Ammonia, Turpentine, or Granville's Lotion, with the free use of Quinine and diaphoretic powders. If the patient desires acid drinks, such as lemonade, etc., he should be indulged. The diet should be generous, avoiding all exercise and exposures to sudden changes of the atmosphere, until the disease is entirely removed.

Acute Pleuritis.

TREATMENT.—This is one of the most unyielding forms of disease to Allopathic practice, and its history and treatment have afforded a text which writers have consumed pages upon; nevertheless it is perfectly tractable to a mild but thorough and active course of medication.

As soon as we are called to a patient laboring under this disease, however mild the attack may be, we at once order him to bed, and apply a poultice of sufficient dimensions to cover the entire chest, made as follows: Take equal parts of

hops, corn meal, and pulverized elm-bark—all of which are to be mixed with hot water to a consistency that will not This should be from one to two inches thick, being spread between two pieces of muslin. This should be as hot as the patient can bear without blistering. Over this should be placed a bandage sufficiently wide to cover the poultice, and tightly adjusted. If this poultice should be prepared and applied as directed, it will not be necessary to change it, as a general thing, only once in about every four hours. The rule to be observed, however, is to know that it is kept very warm, and when it is necessary to make a change, have the second poultice already prepared to be applied immediately on removing the first—care being taken to prevent the air from coming in contact with the surface of the chest. The foregoing directions should be observed and followed out during the continuance of the disease; for this poultice must be continued as long as any pain is present

I cannot too strongly urge upon the practitioner the importance of observing the foregoing direction. This has been our principal reliance for nearly a quarter of a century. We make the following extract upon this subject from the Clinical Lectures, recently delivered by Thomas K. Chambers, M. D., the same author referred to, while upon the subject of Typhus Fever. He says: "In the action of poultices, there is not even a seeming paradox to stumble Continuous steady warmth is the most direct agent in our hands of vital development. It not merely fosters vital growth, but makes that growth take a higher form of life. Warmth, especially when kept steady and even by moisture joined with it, has the same effect upon the failing functions of tissues. It raises and restores the life to its former force of development; as heat renews the vitality of sluggish glands, so it renews the injured membranes which have been lowered to that condition we call congestion or inflammation. Your poultice must be kept on hot and hot until all pain is gone, and the breath can be drawn free and Such means will rarely fail to cut short an attack of

pure pleurisy." In many instances where the disease is of a bilious character, it may be well to make use of a free emetic previous to the application of the poultice. This is a question however of treatment that I would not strongly urge to be adopted. A gentle aperient, however, is always indicated in such cases. To reduce the heart's action, the Veratrum Viride and Gelseminum may be regarded in this form of disease as specifics. The Veratrum will control the heart's action if properly administered, by reducing the pulse to a normal standard in from two to six hours. The Gelseminum at the same time should be pushed until its specific action is produced. This not only produces a complete relaxation of the system, but it modifies and controls the action of the Veratrum, preventing nausea. As soon as the full effect of these remedies is obtained—if the patient has been well covered in bed and has drunk freely of warm teas, copious perspiration will be established. Then if there be no complications, the patient at once is relieved from pain and breathes easy; but if there be complications, then they must be treated accordingly.

We were educated in the doctrine of the use of mercurials, venesection, and blisters, and in our early practice we adopted this treatment in a few instances, but with such results as deterred us from continuing in that practice.

We rejoice at the rapid change of sentiment evinced upon this subject by many of the leading men of the Allopathic School. We make further extracts from Dr. Chambers' Lectures, that the reader may see that the same views we have entertained and which have guided us in our practice so many years, are corroborated by this author.

He says: "Blisters at the outset of Pleurisy invariably protract the duration of the inflammation, and make it more severe. The property of cantharides is to augment that fibrinous crasis from which the membrane is already suffering. Opiates cover up the evil with an anæsthetic mask, and prevent the patient knowing how he really is. Mercury is an unnecessary call upon the whole system, to make destructive sacrifice for the sake of a very small and

not highly important member. Purgatives do no good, and expose the patient to catch cold at the water-closet."

"The taking away the vital fluid is taking away part of the body, and is so directly a destructive agent."

We do not propose here to refer to all the therapeutic agents indicated or applicable to the treatment of pleurisy or any other disease, but desire to dwell more particularly upon the principles and general indications. Our voluminous works upon materia medica, especially upon the concentrated and resinoid preparations, point out and refer to special agents. Yet we call special attention to one or two more, the Asclepias Tub., and the Lycopus Virginica. It has been about fifteen years since the introduction of the Gelseminum and Veratrum into general use by our branch of the profession, and I will here make a statement in reference to my individual success in the treatment of this disease, relying upon the principles and treatment recommended above, that may seem incredible. From the day we abandoned the use of Blood-Letting, Mercurials, Antimony, and Blisters we have not lost a single patient laboring under Pleurisy, nor have we failed to establish the stage of convalescence in from ten to thirty hours.

Ordinarily, we are in the habit of producing copious perspiration by means of the spirit vapor-bath, if the strength and condition of the patient will admit. If, however, this cannot be done, we give the Compound Tincture of Virginia Snakeroot in two or three drachm doses, and repeat it at short intervals until the patient perspires very freely, when instant relief is afforded, for the opiate calms and relieves the pain.

After the patient has been relieved, and can breathe without pain, or at all events with but little pain, an emetic should be administered, which is more especially indicated in that form termed bilious pleurisy, and which should be followed by an active cathartic. Should more or less pain still continue, the Compound Tincture of Virginia Snakeroot may be given in half-drachm doses every two or three hours for the purpose of keeping up a moisture of the sur-

face; and to relieve cough and assist expectoration, some nauseant expectorant must be given, as the Compound Tincture of Lobelia.

The diet should be low, consisting, in the early stage, of mucilaginous liquids, with acidulated drinks if craved, and during convalescence, toast-bread, stewed fruit, oranges, etc. The temperature of the room should be kept uniform; the patient may lie with his head and chest elevated somewhat, and should avoid speaking and coughing as much as possible.

PERISCOPE.

The Case of President Harrison.

As an illustration of the Allopathic treatment of Pneumonia fully and carefully carried out, we will instance the case of the late William Henry Harrison, President of the United States. It is not necessary for us to comment upon this, yet we cannot refrain from asking a single question of the reader, if he believes it is possible for even a well man to receive into the system, in the short space of five days, ninety-three grains of Mercury and twenty-three grains of Tartarized Antimony in such doses and at such intervals, all of which is retained in the system, without producing fatal poisoning. A reference to Dr. Taylor's work on Medical Jurisprudence, under the chapter on Poisons, in connection with this, will well pay the perusal.

It must be remembered, and will be seen by reading the case as reported, that the above treatment was accompanied by other and more active antiphlogistic appliances, such as blistering, cathartics, etc. We think that this case will ever stand as an argument against the allopathic method of the treatment of Pneumonia.

"THE CASE OF THE LATE WILLIAM HENRY HARRISON, PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES. Reported by Thomas Miller, M. D., &c., Washington City.—Boston Medical

and Surgical Journal, vol. xxv., 1841.—On the 26th of March, 1841, at 5 o'clock, P. M., I was summoned to visit President Harrison. I found him slightly ailing, although not confined to his room. He complained of having been somewhat indisposed for several days, which he attributed to the great fatigue and mental anxiety he had undergone; stated that he had taken medicine, had been dieting himself, and believed that he would soon be well again; that he had sent for me, not to prescribe, being always his own physician in slight attacks, but to confer with me respecting some of the peculiarities of his constitution, which he thought it important that his physician should be aware of. He mentioned his liability to neuralgia, affecting his head, stomach, and often his extremities; that he had been, early in life, a martyr to dyspepsia; that for the last few years he had avoided these dyspeptic attacks by a system of diet, confining himself principally to animal food; he had been starving himself for a few days past, in consequence of some return of his old dyspepsia; that when sick, he always required a very stimulating practice; that he slept but little, going to bed early, and rising very early; that he attributed his good health during the last few years to that circumstance. I advised that he should avoid all excitement, that he should remain quiet the next morning in bed, and intermit his official business, which he promised to do. At his request, I called in the evening at 8 o'clock, found him in his parlor, with several of his old military friends; he informed me that he felt much better than he had done for some days; that he thought he would have a good night, and be well by the morning: he was cheerful, and joined in the conversation.

"Saturday, March 27th.—At 1 o'clock, P. M., I was suddenly summoned to visit the President; found him in bed; told me that he had been attacked about an hour and a half previously with a severe chill; that as usual in the morning he had risen at about 4 o'clock, taken a walk around his grounds, and then to the market-house, and

returned to breakfast at half-past 7 o'clock; that he had been much occupied all the morning with business, and that the chill had attacked him while engaged with his cabinet. I prescribed the ordinary remedies, such as mustard to the stomach, heat to the extremities, additional bed-clothing, and warm drinks. The reaction was slight, and perspiration readily induced by a gentle diaphoretic draught, tartar emetic, with the spiritus Mindereri, and diluents.

"I visited him at 5 o'clock, P. M.; his condition was much improved; his skin warm and moist; his thirst allayed; he was cheerful, and said he was satisfied he should have a good night, and be well in the morning; his pulse was soft, about seventy-five; complained only of a slight pain over the right eye, which he considered neuralgic; and which he thought from his own experience would subside in a few hours, and therefore declined using any remedy for it. His tongue being slightly furred, and his bowels not having been moved for two days, I ordered to be taken, at bed-time, the following:

B. Mass Hydrarg. gr. x. Ex. Colocynth. Comp. gr. iij. M. ft. pil. No. iij.

this being a medicine which he stated always acted kindly. I left him about half-past 6, even more comfortable than at 5.

"Sunday, March 28th.—At 4 o'clock, A. M., I was summoned to visit the President; found that at about 12 o'clock at night he had been seized with a violent pain over the right brow, and in his right side, from which he still continued to suffer; the pains were intermittent, equally increased by deep inspiration and motion, but not by pressure; contrary to his expectation he had slept but little during the night—none, since the onset of the pain; he complained of thirst; his tongue was dry; his mouth clammy; his skin warm and moist; pulse eighty, and soft;

occasionally great nausea. He attributed his pain to the want of an operation from his bowels, which were uneasy. I ordered enemata, sinapisms, with warmth to the part affected, and gave him a Seidlitz powder. Half-past 8.— More easy, and disposed to sleep; bowels had been gently opened by the enemata. Ten o'clock.—Has had several light naps; expressed himself much relieved from the pain in his side and head; in other respects much the same as when I left him at half-past 8. Finding the bowels had not been sufficiently moved by the injections, which were repeated once or twice, and caused small, dark, offensive fluid evacuations, with a few lumps of indurated fæces, ordered one of the following pills to be given every two hours:

\mathbf{R}	Hydrarg. Chlorid. Mit.	gr. xij.	
	Pulv. Rhei	gr. xv.	
	Camphoræ	gr. vj.	
	M. ft. pil. No. vj.		

and left directions that in my absence, should the pain return, cups should be freely applied to the side. Upon visiting the President, I received the following report:— At half-past 11 he was very restless; objected to all local applications to his side; applied laudanum to the rectum to remove the unpleasant effects produced by the injection; gave a pill at 12; pain being increased, at his request applied laudanum to the part; slight chilliness about halfpast 12, requiring warm applications to his extremities; at 1 o'clock, inclined to perspiration; at 2 gave the second pill, soon after which he had a small discharge of black, fætid water, similar to those produced by the injection early in the morning. At half-past 2 I saw him; his skin was warmer and drier than it had been; pulse somewhat accelerated; his breathing more hurried; tongue and fauces dry; thirst intense; face a little flushed. Upon examination was satisfied that the lower lobe of the right lung was the seat of pneumonia, complicated with congestion of the liver; but that the acute pain was neuralgic. Continued pills;

had cups applied over the side affected; Granville's lotion to the spine, and over the brow. He was relieved very much, although the quantity of blood taken by the cups was very small; he felt the effect of its loss, breaking out into a free perspiration, complaining of nausea, and a sense of faintness. It is proper to state that my intention after the examination was to bleed from the arm; but upon witnessing the effect that position had on his pulse, &c., I preferred the cups.

"3 o'clock.—Applied a blister over the side, and gave twenty drops of laudanum, with one of the pills. At 4, finding him much relieved by the laudanum, and not having yet procured a free evacuation from the bowels, gave him five grains more of calomel, with ten drops of laudanum; this in a few minutes quieted his stomach, relieved his pain, and he fell into a sweet and calm sleep. From the nature of the case, I felt uneasy respecting the result, and asked for a consultation. At the request of the President and his family, I met Dr. F. May, at 6 o'clock, P. M. We agreed entirely as to the character of his disease, and that the present treatment be continued.

"29th—7 o'clock, A. M.—Met Dr. May. The President had an uncomfortable night, being somewhat disturbed in his breathing with a slight dry cough; urinated freely, and passed several small black and fœtid stools; had taken two of the pills, with the addition of three grains of calomel, and on account of his restlessness, three grains of Dover's powder. At this time his pulse was eighty, and soft; skin warm and moist; slight dull pain in his side more permanent; the bowels not having been freely opened, I ordered a small dose of castor oil, with demulcent drinks.

"2 o'clock.—Met Dr. May. The President had failed to take the oil; had taken small quantities of the demulcents, with mutton broth; had slept quietly occasionally through the day, breathes heavily when lying on his back; has had but little cough; no expectoration; has had one dark fluid evacuation from the bowels, and passed his water several times small in quantity and high-colored; says

he is not refreshed by his sleep; has had a general warm perspiration; some exacerbation of fever; pulse ninety, and fuller; tongue dry, brown, and pointed; thirst great. Ordered one of the following pills every two hours, with some drink and nourishment:

Hydrarg. Chlorid. Mit.
Pulv. Antimonialis,
Pulv. Ipecac. Comp. aa
M. ft. pil. No. vj.

"8 p. m.—Met Dr. May. No new symptom had occurred except the expectoration of pinkish mucus. Ordered continuance of pills, &c., with a large blister over the right hypochondriac, extending to the epigastric region.

"30th—7 A. M.—Has passed a comfortable night, with the exception of unpleasant dreams; seems better; says he feels better; pulse eighty; tongue more moist; still furred; less thirst; bowels not having been opened for twelve hours, and he complaining of uneasiness from distension, we ordered one of the following pills every three hours till they operated:

B .	Submur. Hydrarg.	gr. xij.	
	Pulv. Ipecac.	gr. iij.	
	Pulv. Rhei	gr. xv.	
	M. ft. pil. No. iv.	J	

- "Continuance of nourishment and drink.
- "2 P. M.—Had taken one of the pills, and the half of another; has had no action on the bowels; can lie on his back, or either side, though easiest on his right side; cough and expectoration the same; some exacerbation of fever; pulse eighty-five; tongue dry; more thirst, and complains of uneasiness in his bowels; ordered a continuance of the medicine, &c.
- "7 P. M.—Met Dr. May. Took no more of the pills of calomel and rhubarb; has had several free evacuations from his bowels, which, debilitating him, and being likely to con-

tinue, ordered of the following pills every two hours pro renata:

B. Submur. Hydrarg. gr. xij.
Pulv. Opii,
Pulv. Ipecac. aa gr. iij.
Camphoræ gr. vj.
M. ft. pil. No. xij.

with a little weak brandy-toddy, and nourishment; with hot fomentations to the abdomen.

"31st—7 A. M.—Met Dr. May. Has taken his pills regularly; has had one or two small stools, lighter color; expectoration and other symptoms much the same; pulse soft, compressible, and intermittent, about eighty; ordered continuance of pills every three hours, with infusion of serpentaria and seneka; drink and nourishment, and a little wine whey.

"2 P. M.—Met Dr. May. Has been in a fine warm perspiration all the morning, dozing a little, lying on either side; cough the same, with a more copious expectoration of a yellowish viscid mucus, tinged with blood, pulse now ninety, soft, and regular; tongue the same; in other respects the same; discontinue pills; continue the serpentaria and seneka, with some drink and nourishment.

"7 p. m.—Met Dr. May. Has continued to take the serpentaria and seneka; find he has some exacerbation of fever; gave one of the following pills every three hours:

B. Submur. Hydrarg.,
Pulv. Ipecac.,
Pulv. Antim. aa gr. xij.
M. ft. pil. No. vj.

and between each dose 3 ss. of spirit of Mindererus, with 1-12th of a grain of tart. antim., till perspiration and sleep are induced; drink, the same.

"April 1st—7 A. M.—Met Dr. May. The pills and spiritus Mindereri were taken till they produced the desired

effect, and he had a good night. At this hour his perspiration was too free, though warm; feels debilitated by it; discontinued all medicine for the present, and ordered cordial nourishment and drinks; applied ung. hydrarg. camphorat. over the whole abdomen and blistered surface.

- "13 P. M.—Complained of feeling relaxed and uncomfortable; took wine whey, cream, &c.; had a small dark green passage, and more consistent; some incoherence; muttering while dozing; picking at the bed-clothes; baring his breast; pulse soft and compressible. We had applied blisters to inside of the thighs; says his blister on the side feels pleasant; he had frequent discharges from his bowels, with much dryness of the mouth and fauces; tongue dry and brown; took some carragreen at 2; seemed better; pulse eighty, soft; skin warm; mouth not so dry; thirst less; feels blisters; has taken serpentaria, &c., every three hours.
- "2½ P. M.—At my request, the President and his family added Dr. N. W. Worthington, of Georgetown, and Dr. J. C. Hall, of this city, to our consultation; these gentlemen met Dr. May and myself at this hour. After a minute examination and a detail of the history of the case, they perfectly agreed with us, both in our opinion of the character of the case, and in the propriety of the treatment. At this time the situation of the President was as above described; we agreed to continue the serpentaria and seneka infusion, with the addition of a few drops of the aromatic spirits of ammonia to each dose; and at bed-time to give five grains of the hydrargyrum cum cretâ, with an anodyne, if necessary.
 - "9 P. M.—Has taken the infusion regularly; could be prevailed on to take but one dose of the ammonia; has had one free evacuation from his bowels; about 8 o'clock, was seized with return of pain in the side; which was readily relieved by the application of warm poultices over the blistered surface, and Granville's lotion along the spine; it then attacked him over the right brow; the lotion relieved it instantly, but it returned to the side. The application

of the lotion to the brow and spine at the same time removed the pain entirely; afterwards he complained of soreness and cramp in the gastrocnemius muscle, which were removed by frictions; has been all the evening in a fine warm perspiration; cough, expectoration, &c., much the same. The hydrargyrum cum cretâ was given, with twenty drops of laudanum.

"10 P. M.—Became restless; moans a good deal; skin moist and warm; pulse, &c., the same; has taken a little nourishment. Dr. Hall remained with me to-night; we agreed to give one of the following pills every two hours till composed, viz.:

B. Hydrarg. Chlorid. Mit.,

Camphoræ aa gr. vj.

Pulv. Opii gr. iij.

M. ft. pil. No. vj.

"April 2d—10 A. M.—Met Drs. May, Worthington, and Hall. Has passed a comfortable night; took his pills, infusion and nourishment when awake. His tongue is dry and brown; thirst great; skin warm and moist; pulse ninety, soft and regular; some cough; expectoration brownish mucus, tinged with blood; says he does not feel as well as he has done, though he makes no particular complaint; we considered him rather worse; we agreed to give him two grains of blue mass every three hours, with the serpentaria and seneka infusion; nourishment, &c., continued.

"6 o'clock, P. M.—Met Drs. May, Worthington, and Hall. Has taken his pills and infusion regularly; had several small brownish watery evacuations from the bowels, which he says weakened him; taken some beef tea, weak brandy-toddy, &c.; slept an hour or two: during his sleep some incoherent muttering; had taken a few drops of laudanum to quiet the bowels, and relieve griping. We find him as follows: pulse eighty, soft and full; skin warm and moist; tongue broader and softer; agreed to give him half a grain of calomel, half a grain of camphor, and a

quarter of a grain of opium, every two hours, with some nourishment, &c., &c.

- "April 3d—12 o'clock, m.—Dr. Alexander, of Baltimore, being added to the consultation, met Drs. May, Worthington, Hall, and myself. Dr. A. concurred entirely in the view which had been taken of the case, and the treatment pursued. During the night, the tongue, pulse, and skin had remained as usual, and he had had one copious evacuation, which did not weaken him, though he got up to the chair, as he had insisted on doing throughout his ill-Sleep accompanied by muttering, and disturbed by a dry, hacking cough, which was relieved by a teaspoonful of the syrups of squill, morphia, and Tolu, in equal quanti-From 2 to 5 A. M. had slept sweetly; from which time to the present had dozed and muttered, but when aroused his mind was perfectly clear; felt relaxed; had taken wine whey, the pills of calomel, camphor, and opium being continued.
- "We found an exacerbation of fever denoted by a reddened and heated skin, increased frequency of the pulse; medicine ordered to be discontinued, and cooling drink to be given.
- "This excited state soon subsiding, we were compelled to resort again to the cordial drinks and nourishment.
- "Up to this time he had been propped up in bed, and said that he felt much better; encouraged his friends with an expectation of a speedy recovery.
- "2 o'clock, P. M.—Moaned very much and talked in his sleep.
- "2½.—Was much exhausted by a very large feculent discharge; took brandy and water and jelly.
- "4.—More feeble and languid; gave twenty drops of laudanum to check an inclination to another passage.
- "4½.—Languor increasing; fell rapidly off into a dozing state, from which it was difficult to arouse him; pulse slow, hobbling, and intermittent. Features shrunken and pinched; skin dark and muddy. The stimulants were urged; sinapisms applied to extremities and abdomen: sent for consulting physicians.

- "5.—Abdomen distended; more incoherence; had a large serous evacuation from the bowels (still insisted upon getting up to the chair), by which he was much exhausted; gave starch, laudanum, and kino injection; sponged with hot spirits of turpentine.
- "6.—Met consulting physicians; we consider the case hopeless: pulse sinking; extremities blue and cold: directed camphor and carbonate of ammonia emulsion, with hot brandy-toddy, and frictions.
- "7.—Had several small serous discharges; stimulating treatment continued.
- "8.—All the mortal symptoms increasing; our efforts to sustain him still continued.
- "8\frac{3}{4}.—He uttered these words, as heard by Dr. Worthington and Mr. Samuel D. Naughan, cupper, leecher, &c.: 'Sir, I wish you to understand the true principles of the government; I wish them carried out, I ask nothing more.' Immediately afterwards he fell into a state of total insensibility. Finally, at half-past 12, on the morning of the 4th of April, without a groan or a struggle, he ceased to breathe.

"We regret to state that our efforts to obtain a postmortem examination were unsuccessful."

Action of the Bromide of Potassium upon the Nervous System.

Dr. J. Crichton Browne has subjected forty-three patients suffering from various affections of the nervous system to the action of the bromide of potassium, and from watching its effects on these patients and comparing them with the recorded experience of others, he has become convinced of its high value. He has been led to the conclusion that the bromide acts directly as a sedative to the medulla oblongata, soothing and moderating its functions wherever these are in excess of the normal standard. This sedative influence he believes to embrace alike the impressibility and motor excitability of the organ. The medicine has been given in doses of from ten to forty grains twice or thrice a day, after

meals or upon an empty stomach. The most useful results have occurred under doses of twenty to twenty-five grains twice a day.

The actions of the bromide of potassium, according to Dr. Browne, are:—

- 1. It mitigates those convulsive movements or spasmodic twitchings, which are the result of the rapid conversion of sensory impressions into motor impulses, or of morbid reflex action through the medulla oblongata, and it exercises a peculiar influence over the phenomena which are characteristic of epilepsy. Whether the increased excitability of the medulla oblongata is so great as to be productive of epilepsy, or so slight as to expend itself in minor spasmodic complaints, the bromide seems to exert an excellent effect on it.
- 2. It has a sedative effect upon the action of the heart in certain cases.
- 3. It lessens and mitigates that rapid and preturnatural excitement of spasm, tremor, and other outward manifestations which in some forms of nervous disease follow upon any emotional or moral disturbance.
- 4. It acts as an anodyne, under certain circumstances relieving hyperæsthetical sensations.
 - 5. It promotes sleep.
- 6. It exercises a sedative influence over the sexual functions.
- 7. It exercises a beneficial influence over certain mental diseases.
- "Without minutely considering here," says Dr. B., "the uses of the bromide of potassium in the treatment of insanity, I may mention that I have seen it of signal service in orectic and thymic derangements. I believe I have seen it moderate excessive manifestations of the instincts, and appetites, and afford assistance in subjugating degraded and vicious impulses and propensities. I have certainly seen it efficacious in alleviating melancholia, simple, suicidal, akinetic, hypochondriacal, sexual, emotional, etc. It is in these forms

of insanity enumerated that I anticipate that it will be of most utility."

Therapeutic Uses of Oxygen.

M. Demarquay, who has devoted much attention to the use of oxygen inhalation in medicine, says, in speaking of its therapeutic indications, that, in the early stage of phthisis, where there is no fever, and no fear of exciting local action, when the patient is becoming emaciated, and the emaciation is increased by persistent dyspepsia, oxygen may have a salutary influence in modifying the state of the constitution and sustaining the organism. Asthenia is the disease in which oxygen has been given by preference; of twenty-two patients treated by Beddoes, ten were cured, and nine re-But the employment of oxygen in asthenia meets lieved. with numerous contraindications. Oxygen renders incontestable service in essential anæmia. It is especially indicated in that form of chlorosis of young girls which is characterized by obstinate anorexia; in the anæmia of convalescents, and in the anæmia, often severe, of newly-delivered The inhalation of oxygen is also successful in anæmia arising from hemorrhage or from fatigue, and is also a very energetic remedy in the debility produced by prolonged suppuration; it stimulates the appetite, sustains the powers of the patient, and enables him to attain to recovery. In diabetes, under the influence of oxygen inhalation, the quantity of sugar contained in the urine is remarkably diminished. In surgery, oxygen stimulates weak and ill-conditioned ulcers, and accelerates the production of granulations in cica-In senile gangrene, as long as the circulatrizing wounds. tion continues in the artery of the foot, oxygen is, according to the observations of MM. Laugier, Demarquay, and Maurice Reynaud, the only remedy which in advanced cases affords a chance of recovery.—Brit. Med. Journ., May 19, 1866, from Gaz. Méd. de Paris, 14 April, 1866.

Atrophy and Degeneration of the Muscles of the Upper and Lower Extremities from Disease of the Spinal Cord.—The following case of this was communicated to the Royal Med. and Chir. Soc. (June 12, 1866) by Mr. Geo. L. COOPER:—

J. J., aged 41 years, married, but his wife had no family; was much exposed to the weather in his daily occupation, at the same time had been a man of intemperate habits, and the subject of a long chronic cough. He was admitted under the care of the Author at the Bloomsbury Dispensary on February 14th, and died on the 26th. He suffered from complete paralysis of the upper and lower extremities, with atrophy of the muscles of these parts. The symptoms were slow, but progressive. They commenced in the hands and feet, and extended to the arms and legs, and ended in total paralysis. His cough was severe, with purulent expectoration, to the time of his death, which took place on February The post-mortem showed much distension of the coverings of the cord from fluid, with congestion of the pia mater in the cervical region, and considerable softening in the substance of the white columns. At the commencement of the lower third in the dorsal region the central gray substance contained a large dilated vessel on each side, surrounded by extravasated blood-globules; and the extremities of the posterior cornua were highly vascular, as also in certain parts of the gray substance there were patches of extravasated blood.—Med. Times and Gaz., July 21, 1866.

Syme's Amputation of the Foot.—Mr. Henry Hancock, in his lectures "on the Anatomy and Surgery of the Human Foot" (Lancet, July 21, 1866), gives a table of 219 cases of Syme's operation, exclusive of those performed by Syme himself.

"Of these 144 were performed for caries.

66	22	"	"	accident.
66	2	"	66	gunshot wounds.
66	1	46	"	hypertrophy.
"	1	66	"	malignant disease.

Of	these	1	was	performed	for	necrosis.
"		1	40	66		frost bite.
46		1	66	"		traumatic gangrene.
46		1	"	46		acute inflammation.
"		44	46	66		diseases not stated.

RESULTS.

13 suffered secondary amputation.

17 died.

183 recovered, and could walk well.

6 results not stated.

"Of the 13 amputations—in 8 the period between Syme's operation and secondary amputation is not stated; in 2, two months; in 1, four months, and in 2, two years intervened between the two operations. Nine of the amputations were performed upon patients who had undergone the primary Syme's operation for caries, and of these one was a confirmed drunkard, one patient had been primarily operated upon for traumatic gangrene, one two years previously for accident, and in the remaining two the disease is not stated.

"Of the 17 fatal cases, 4 died of pyæmia; of these, one had been operated upon for malignant disease, one for accident, one for gunshot wound, and in the fourth the primary disease is not stated. In 5 the operation had been performed for accident, one of the patients dying of pyæmia, as already stated. In 10 the operation had been performed for caries; of these, 1 died of exhaustion caused by diarrheea.

"These are the results of this operation performed in civil practice: and they must be regarded as most favorable, especially when we consider that it has been restricted neither to classes, sex, nor age. Of the 219 cases, the ages have ranged from one to sixty-four years (although we read that Mr. Syme operated upon an infant aged five months), the youngest, as we have seen, having been operated upon by Mr. Pemberton, of Birmingham; whilst Mr. Marsden and Mr. Gant, of the Royal Free Hospital, and Mr. Nesbitt, of Wolverhampton, can claim the credit of having performed

this operation successfully on the three oldest patients hitherto submitted to its procedure.

"In military practice it would seem to be equally succesful. Staff Surgeon Gordon, of the 95th regiment, which suffered so severely at the battle of the Alma, thus writes to Mr. Syme: 'I have much pleasure in stating that several cases of amputation of the foot, as first proposed and practised by you, were performed after the battle of the Alma, and the results were most favorable. Those cases which came under my observation healed more rapidly than when the operation was performed at the lower third of the leg, and at the same time a much more useful stump was the result.'"

EDITORIAL.

"Eclectic Remedies," "Concentrated Medicines," "Resincids" and "Alkaloids."

Under these names a system of remedies, chiefly of vegetable origin, have been discovered, their medicinal properties tested, and their value fixed as remedial agents for the amelioration and cure of disease, by an extensive practical application through a series of years by Eclectic practitioners. Nearly every one of these remedies had its origin with Eclectic observers and experimenters, and all grew out of suggestions put forth from time to time by the intelligent and devoted men whose consciences and judgment compelled them to seek for substitutes for the system of poisonous mineral agents in wholesale use by the Allopathic practitioners in all parts of the country. Perhaps no one has taken a more active interest in the development of this system of Eclectic Remedies than the senior Editor of the Review. Through a long series of years it has been our custom to make special tests in every intelligible form, of the various new remedies as they appeared, and unquestionably we have in practice applied a greater number and to a greater extent these remedies than any other practitioner whatever. among the very first to offer encouragement to manufacturers of concentrated remedies, and undeniably we have done more than any

other man to give prominence and publicity to, and to secure a recognition of their valuable qualities to these "Eclectic remedies," personally and through the Eclectic Medical Journal, over which we presided for twelve years, every number of which through that long period had some word of encouragement—some confirmation of their special excellences, or some prominence given to special facts connected with their application and use. These facts are well known among intelligent practitioners of the Eclectic school, and especially among those who were constant readers of the Eclectic Medical Journal during the period indicated.

These remedies are well known to all Eclectic physicians, numbering several thousand, who have graduated from our schools, and they are also well known to many of the more conscientious, intelligent, observant and untrammelled practitioners of the Allopathic and Homeopathic schools of medicine in this country and Europe. Many use them secretly, others more openly, and we should not be surprised to find our Remedies first abused then secretly used in practice, and finally that they are claimed as having originated with the Allopathic school of medicine. Even manufacturers who owe everything to Eclectic encouragement, may, under the stimulus of selfishness and lust of gain, join hands to achieve this result; but as good only can grow out of it, such infidelity to Eclecticism may be endured but not encouraged.

That all of these remedies are prepared with the perfection of which they are susceptible we have never asserted; in fact we know that this is not so; and it will be our lifelong purpose through the Pharmaceutical department of the Eclectic Medical College of the City of New York, to develop and perfect this class of remedial agents to their very highest point of crystalline excellence, by furnishing new facts and methods of preparation to conscientious and trustworthy manufacturers, based upon scientific and practical results, obtained through a course of systematic research and experiment.

The Eclectic Medical Review will strenuously urge the policy of improvement, in the character of all Eclectic Remedies and pharmaceutical preparations, upon the attention of prominent manufacturers who have become prosperous and rich in the pursuit of this business, and will take occasion to point out special and glaring defects in the character of many of their preparations, which are largely sent out for introduction into general practice.

We enter a solemn protest against the cupidity and sclishness that could consent to accumulate unholy gains from imperfectly prepared or wholly valueless medicinal agents, usually sold at a large price, even if of the very best quality, upon which health and life depend. Perfect remedies in the hands of comparatively unpractised physicians will often prove successful and save valuable life, while imperfect and worthless medicinal preparations sent out by an unscrupulous manufacturer, are no better than the dagger in the hand of the midnight assassin. If anathemas should be hurled at Paracelsus and his band of professional poisoners, the same should fall upon the head of the manufacturer and vender of pretended Eclectic Remedies, which only prove a lure and a snare to the Practitioner, and always disastrous if not fatal to his patients.

The Eclectic Medical College of the City of New York.

In accordance with the announcement of the Board of Trustees, this Institution was formally opened on the 15th of Oct., and a full course of Lectures was commenced from that date. matriculants were received, and additions are constantly coming in. The new College building situated on 26th st. near Bellevue Hospital has ample facilities to accommodate from 150 to 200 students. amphitheatre is a model, lighted from overhead, and in every way equal to the best arranged in the city. The Chemical and general Lecture Room is all that could be desired in its furniture and ap-The Laboratory under the charge of Prof. Sanders, is pointments. organized in the most perfect manner both as a Chemical Laboratory and for the purpose of preparing in a crystalline form a perfect system of Eclectic Remedies of a uniform and the very highest standard of excellence, specially designed for the use of the Faculty and other Eclectic Practitioners. The Dissecting Room has been arranged with a due regard for comfort, ventilation, convenience and observation.

The Dispensary department is ample and commodious, and will be the means of imparting invaluable benefits to the afflicted and comparatively helpless poor who will receive every attention at the hands of the attending physicians and surgeons. This Department will be constantly open for the dispensing of advice and medicines to the poor. This feature is peculiar to the Eclectic Medical Dispensary, all other Dispensaries having stated hours for the reception of

patients. This Department will afford extensive and valuable opportunities for observation to the student in surgical and general practice.

The noble room devoted to the Library and Museum is admirably adapted, and is one of the most elegant and perfectly appointed halls in the country. The Faculty are united, and with the Board of Trustees cordially sustaining them, the Institution cannot fail to be a great national success. Eclectic Surgeons and Physicians having rare specimens could not do better service to the cause than to place them in the museum of the Eclectic Medical College of the City of New York, and are cordially invited to do so either permanently, or temporarily, as may seem best to the donors.

Drs. Law and Boyd and Prof. Comins of this city have set an admirable example of liberality in this direction, and are entitled to the thanks of the Eclectic Medical profession.

The concentrated and other Eclectic remedies will be required in the Dispensary as well as for cabinet purposes, and the Faculty and Board of Trustees would take this means of inviting the co-operation of Manufacturers and Dealers, by furnishing supplies of the different medicines for the benefit of the poor, thronging by hundreds to this Dispensary.

Syme's Principles and Practice of Surgery.

A NEW edition of this work, just issued by Robert S. Newton, is received. This is the neatest edition of this work ever issued; it contains a steel plate engraving of the American editor.

This work has been noticed so often, and the merits of its authors are so well known to the Profession as renders further remarks unnecessary. Price \$6.

Drs. James G. Henshall & James A. Henshall.

DR. JAS. G. HENSHALL, late of Cincinnati, and for several years intimately identified with the Eclectic Medical Institute of that city as its Secretary, and as one of the members of the Board of Trustees, has removed to Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

Dr. H. is perfectly familiar with all the peculiarities of the Ec-

lectic system of medicine, and will prove himself worthy of the patronage and confidence of the public.

Dr. Jas. A. Henshall, late of this city, and a man of tried experience in the practice of his profession, joins his father in establishing an office at 471 Milwaukee street, Milwaukee, Wisconsin. We commend these gentlemen to the friends of the cause in the N. W. as good Physicians and Surgeons.

The Eclectic Medical Dispensary.

This Institution, under the direction of the Board of Trustees and Faculty of the Eclectic Medical College of New York, will be opened in a few days, with facilities and conveniencies equal to any similar institution in the city. The Dispensary is located at 135 East 26th st., between 2d and 3d Avenues. It will be open every day except Sunday, for the reception of such persons as wish to receive medical attention and medicine, free of the necessarily high prices at this time. It will be under the care of able and careful Physicians, and every necessary attention will be given to all who call. We hope our medical friends will call and examine this Institution and its working. The great demand at this time in our city for such institutions is such as to warrant the benevolent friends of such persons as are helped in this way, to create more of such charities.

"Hair Dyes," Restoratives," "Invigorators," and "Bloom of Youth."

THE daily use of these preparations produce the most serious diseases, and often permanent paralysis—falling out of the eye-lashes, and hair generally. The cause of such a state of things is, that the base of all these preparations is lead, in some form.

When applied to the surface this poison is absorbed, and is one of the most fruitful sources of paralysis. The nerves of the face often become the seat of this dreadful disease. Often will you meet with ladies whose face or eye-lids are distorted, caused by the use of these agents.

Every person who wishes to preserve their health, and not use any of these poisonous preparations, should apply a test, and if they find lead discard their use.

A solution of Iodide of Potassium will, if mixed with the wash, cause the whole to assume a Red color, or if a solution of Bichromate of Potash is used, the mixture will be yellow. Now, it will be seen that the test is so very simple, and within the reach of every one, that there is no necessity for persons being permanently disabled and rendered unhealthy.

Reed Instruments—Parlor Organs.

THE most important of the many devices which have been invented and applied to this class of musical instruments, have been made within the past twenty years, by the celebrated firm of Carhart & Needham. These improvements have brought the Accordeon up to a rank and position second only to the great pipe organ. To-day the Parlor Organs of Messrs. Carhart & Needham stand unquestionably in advance of all other reed organs, for absolute perfection of tone and for the dominant qualities of excellence in all respects. The latest improvement, refining and intensifying the delicacy and perfection of the reeds in these beautiful instruments, has proved a brilliant success, and it is difficult to imagine anything more sympathetic and delicious than the tones of the Parlor Organ as now perfected.

These instruments, like the pianos, are rapidly finding their way into the houses, schools, churches, and public halls of the people, and they have only to be popularly advertised and made known, to largely accelerate the present large demand.

Messrs. Carhart & Needham have made the largest and the pest reed Organs in the world, and the instruments they are preparing for exhibition at the Great International Fair in Paris next year, will carry surprise and delight to all lovers of the exquisite and beautiful in music and musical instruments.

NEWS AND MISCELLANY.

TRANSACTIONS OF THE BROOKLYN ACADEMY OF MEDICINE.

(REPORTED FOR THE ECLECTIC MEDICAL REVIEW.)

THE Brooklyn Academy of Medicine held their regular monthly meeting on the evening of July 8d, 1866, D. E. Smith, M.D., President, in the Chair.

After the reading of the minutes of the previous meeting, and the

transaction of the usual business of the Academy, the President announced the report of cases to be in order.

Dr. H. S. Firth reported the case of a child that had been run over by a loaded cart and badly injured, but recovered soon under treatment without protracted illness. He also reported a case of malignant carbuncle situated over the spine, in the region of the lower dorsal vertebræ. The case was a bad one, but yielded kindly to the following treatment: the diseased surface was covered freely with a powder composed of sulphate of zinc, sanguinaria, and podophyllin, after which a poultice of alippery elm was applied. The powder and poultice were repeated until, by sloughing, the diseased portion was removed, when the surface of the ulcer was washed with a solution of tannin; internally he administered Tr. Chloride of Iron, and alteratives.

Dr. M. Hermance had used sanguinaria can. and tannin in various eye diseases, particularly in granulated lids, and thought very favorably of the remedy. He related a very remarkable case successfully treated by the application; his mode of preparing the wash is to make a decoction of the blood-root, and then add sufficient tannin to give the liquid a clouded appearance.

Dr. Boskowitz exhibited to the Society an instrument invented in Germany for acupuncturing purposes. It consists of a number of small, sharp-pointed needles which pierce the cuticle by means of a spring. This instrument is said to be useful in a variety of diseases, especially in chronic rheumatism. After the puncturing, any stimulating liniment may be applied, or medicaments externally applied in view of being absorbed.

Dr. D. E. Smith reported a very interesting case of a female suffering with a tumor in the right iliac region. The pain arising from the difficulty was very severe, was of a lancinating character, and very much resembled that of cancer; eventually suppuration took place, and an opening was formed externally, through which the contents of the tumor discharged; what was most singular, a large number of irregular, hard substances, very much resembling pieces of bone, were discharged. The case was particularly interesting from the fact that the tumor was in close proximity to the right ovary. (The query arises, was this a case of extra-uterine pregnancy, or typhlitis, a disease of the cocum and appendix resulting in abcess?) The doctor has preserved a portion of the hard substance that was discharged and intends to examine it under the microscope. The lady is likely to recover.

Dr. H. S. Firth reported the case of a lady that had been subjected to treatment for supposed fibrous tumor of the ovary previous to coming under his care. He diagnosed the case as ventral pregnancy, or extrauterine fœtation, which it eventually proved to be. Nature found an outlet through the vaginal walls, and a number of partly disorganized pieces of bone were discharged. The fœtus had been a long time impris-

oned in the abdominal cavity.

Dr. H. E. Firth read a paper upon the unity of the Eclectic Profession; the various causes that have militated against the progress of Eclecticism were set forth, and the members were exhorted as to the necessity of a punctual attendance upon our Society meetings, as also a unity of purpose and action in sustaining the Eclectic Medical College of New York.

Dr. W. W. Hadley desired to see our institutions take a high stand. The New York Eclectic Medical College, he hoped and expected, would insist upon a strict conformity to the principles set forth in their announcement, and that no student would be suffered to graduate who had not previously duly qualified himself.

Dr. A. B. Whitney remarked that while he concurred in the general sentiments of the paper just read, he would beg leave to criticise that portion that would fix the origin of Eclecticism to this present century: he claimed that, while Eclecticism was in keeping with the spirit and improvement of the age, it was as old as medicine itself. He referred to the historic fact of a sect termed eclectics, and said that in every age this principle had been recognized.

Dr. J. T. Burdick warmly eulogized the spirit of Dr. Firth's paper. He hoped that an effort would be put forth to strengthen our organization: he thought that we should have our dispensaries and our clinics; he claimed that we had the facilities if we only co-operated properly in the.

matter.

Dr. E. Freeman said, that Eclecticism, as we understand it, is peculiarly of American origin; it is the outgrowth of a higher development of science, and is based upon pathological deductions; upon this principle

we ignore blood-letting, calomel, antimony, arsenic, &c.

Dr. H. S. Firth favored a national assemblage that would, among other duties, enunciate a platform of principles as a base for a more healthful and vigorous organization; he desired Eclectic Physicians to rally under one standard, and proclaim to the world a unity of sentiment; and until this is accomplished we will be fighting like a great army without object for action. A platform of principles, that would represent the sentiment of every true Eclectic Physician, should be heralded forth from a national organization.

The discussion was continued at some length, in a spirit worthy of the

subject of Eclectic progress.

The President appointed as essayists for our next meeting Drs. J. T. Burdick and H. S. Firth.

On motion, the Society adjourned.

H. E. FIRTH, Secretary.

TANIA SOLIUM.

As I have very lately had an evidence of the very decided benefit of Aspidium Felix Mass in the removal of *Tapeworm*, I thought a report of

the case might be desirable.

A Mr. Myers, residing in Portland Avenue, Brooklyn, applied to me for medical advice, and from the symptoms presented in his case I came to the conclusion that he had worms; supposing, however, that they were the ordinary stomach-worm (Ascaris Lumbricoides) I wrote for him the following prescription:—

B. Ol. Chenopodium,
Ol. Anis. Sem.
Spts. Terabintha,
Tr. Myrrh,
Ol. Ricini,
3 ij.

S. One table-spoonful every hour for three hours.

M. Repeat as above on the second and third day.

The direction I then gave him was to report his case to me on the fourth day, which he did, with a report that he had passed a considerable amount of a substance which seemed to be pieces of worms. I directed him to repeat the medicine on the following day, and if any such passages again occurred to let me examine them. On the following day he showed

me a number of pieces which I readily discovered to be joints of a tapeworm. On the third day following he was dieted, and on the fourth day treatment for tapeworm was commenced: he was directed to take of the ethereal oil of Male Fern 25 drops in the morning, fasting, and 25 drops in the evening, and on the following morning 25 drops more, which was to be followed by the following cathartic in three hours:—

B Podophyllin, Ol Tiglii, Pulv. Sacc. Alb., gr. j. gtt. j. gr. xx.

M. Take in Syrup at one dose.

He followed my orders, with the exception of the dose in the evening, which he increased to about 40 drops. In less than four hours after taking the cathartic he evacuated the entire worm, which measured over eight feet; from his description he must have lost about one-third of the tailend of the worm by the first medicine I administered. Judging from the effect of the medicine in so speedily removing the whole worm, head and all, I shall be inclined hereafter to employ this remedy in preference to other means, and would recommend, after the administration of the oil, a quick and drastic cathartic, that the whole worm, which is sickened (if not killed) by the oil, may be speedily removed.

H. E. Firth, M.D., 100 Clermont Av., Brooklyn.

Code of Ethics of the Eclectic Medical Society of the State of New York,

Adopted May, 1865,

ARTICLE L

The interests and rights of medical men are as dear to them, as are those of any other class of citizens in this Republic to themselves; they are entitled by the Constitution of this great Union to the same freedom and privileges in moral, social, political and civil life, as are individuals pursuing any other vocation; and any Associations or Rules which would deprive them of the least portion of these rights and privileges, are unwarranted usurpations, contrary to the spirit and intent of our American government, and, consequently, of no force in law or custom.

ARTICLE II.

The common rules and maxims of morality which are enjoined in the Bible, and have been recognized by the wise and virtuous at all times, and in every civilized country, are comprehensive enough in their scope, and sufficiently dignified in form to meet all the contingencies and emergencies which in a moral point of view are likely to arise in the transaction of business and the interchange of thought and sentiment between man and man.

ARTICLE III.

Medical men have an undoubted right to bring themselves and their claims before the public by every fair and honorable means, as much so as any other class of men. They may enter into general or special practice as they may consider best adapted to their interests, or to their peculiar

views; they may introduce themselves to the notice of the public by printed cards or other publications, by public or private lectures, or by the publication of certificates of cures actually performed. But while it is clearly the right of the physician to thus present himself in a truthful, modest manner before the community, as a candidate for patronage, everything like boasting or self-adulation, all efforts at bombastic display which evince a purpose to excite the wonder of the people and lead them to anticipate what probably cannot be realized, and show at the same time on the part of the advertiser an unwillingness to trust his claims for public favor upon the simple truth, are highly disgusting to every rightminded person, and are entirely unprofessional. The presence of laymen at operations, is by no means objectionable if both the patient and operator are willing thereto, as it tends to make the skill and ability of the operator better known in his community, affords an incentive for medical men to perfect themselves in their profession, and cultivates a feeling of confidence on the part of the public which will lead them to seek for medical aid among the members of the profession instead of among those who, professing to practice medicine, are ignorant of its first principles.

ARTICLE IV.

Attendance upon the poor gratis, is certainly a Christian charity, for the doing of which no fault can be found with any one; yet in relation to this subject, as well as to contracts between patients and medical men, the laws and business customs of the country afford all the protection, and allow all the privileges which are necessary, and of which the physician has an undoubted right to honorably avail himself—being only careful, however, not to interfere with the claims which the profession generally hold upon him, for its security individually and collectively, by rendering professional services for less than the customary fees of his medical brethren who may be located in his neighborhood. If a physician candidly believes that he can effect a cure in any given case presented to him for treatment or advice, it is not only his right but his duty to so inform the patient seeking his advice.

ARTICLE V.

A medical man having invented any surgical instrument, or discovered any new and valuable medicine, it becomes his capital, and there is nothing unprofessional in his obtaining a patent for the same; if it is right for our government to issue patents to her citizens, it is equally right for them to hold patents; and if it is not right, in either case, no particular class of men or associations are exactly authorized to arraign the American government and her citizens for trial, and sit in judgment upon them. A physician may, in his own practice, employ a medicine or compound known only to himself; it is his capital, and there is no law in the country which can compel him to divide his capital among others by disclosing his remedy, save his own benevolence and philanthropy. He may also employ in his own practice any remedy of whatever character it may be, when the formula for its preparation is made known to him, and he deems it a useful medicine; nor does the fact of such formula being made known to him demand that he shall reveal it to others, unless by permission of the party to whom it actually belongs; honor, at least, would forbid such a treacherous revelation. But while no person is under obligation to make public all the formulas of his own practice, and while no practitioner should ever prescribe a remedy the composition of which he does not understand, it is certainly unjustifiable, unbecoming and unprofessional in any medical man to send out, to be purchased and indiscriminately used

by community, medicines, whether patented or not, of the character and application of which they are as ignorant as they are of the physiology and pathology of the human body.

ARTICLE VI.

No person can be considered a physician who has not by collegiate attendance, or otherwise made himself acquainted with at least the practical portion of the departments of anatomy, physiology, surgery, materia medica, theory and practice, obstetrics and chemistry. Yet even among physicians thus recognized, there may be a great diversity of opinion upon medical matters, as we find to be really the case in the profession, at the present day; yet no physician should be slighted, abused, or treated discourteously, because of such differences. Freedom of speech and of thought, originally bestowed upon man by his Creator, are guaranteed to him by our government, and to refuse to recognize a physician, or to reject fellowship with him because of differences of opinion upon medical or any other matters, is anti-republican in spirit, evinces a narrow, illiberal, selfish mind, and renders the possessor of it a laughing-stock to all sensible persons.

ARTICLE VII.

The professional man should seek to combine in his character, 1. A thorough acquaintance with his profession; 2. Integrity, or unbending adherence to moral principle; 3. Self-respect, or a modest appreciation of what he is, and what he deserves; and, 4. Benevolence, or a generous consideration of the interests and feelings of his fellow men. These elements combined in the foundation of his character, and fully developed in his life, will constitute any man a true gentleman, and entitle him to a place in the highest ranks of moral excellence.

ARTICLE VIII.

With respect to the duties of physicians to their patients, ever bearing in mind the great responsibility resting upon them in the discharge of their profession, physicians should always display a promptness and willingness in attending to the calls of the sick; by this course they may not only be enabled to check disease at its commencement, but will also secure the confidence of patients and their friends, which, as every physician knows, is a very important point taken in connection with the treat-Gentleness and kindness, with firmness, is the proper course to pursue with patients and their friends, yielding to the wishes of others whenever this can be done without jeopardizing the welfare of the sick, avoiding anything offensive or imperious; always, however, recollecting that the responsibility of the treatment and its result rests solely upon the medical man, who must, as long as a patient is under his professional care, constantly bear this in mind and exercise the proper authority over his or her management. The patient belongs to the physician as far as hygienical and therapeutical measures are concerned, until a cure is effected, or the physician discharged; and any neglect, inattention, or refusal to follow the directions of the attending physician, or any improper interference therewith, must necessarily relieve the physician from all censure and accountability in case of an unfavorable result originating therefrom.

Patients should be visited by their physicians as frequently as may be necessary to learn the peculiar character and progress of the disease, as well as the influence exerted upon it by the treatment pursued, but great care should be taken not to visit unnecessarily or too frequently, as this is

calculated to needlessly alarm patients and their friends, impair confidence in the physician, and give rise to suspicions of mercenariness.

Patients should not be abandoned because of the incurability of their disease; the attendance of the physician may be the means of relieving them of much suffering and smoothing their progress toward the grave, besides being a source of comfort and satisfaction to friends and relatives.

A physician should display in the sick room a degree of cheerfulness consistent with the condition of his patients; he should comfort and cheer up the sick, encouraging them to hope when there are grounds for such encouragement, and manifesting the sympathy and interest he takes in their welfare in a gentlemanly and dignified manner. Levity in the sick room, discussions, or conversations concerning matters foreign to the condition or welfare of the sick person, are unprofessional, out of place, and highly censurable.

Misrepresentations of the seriousness of a disease for the purpose of impressing patients and others with the superior skill and ability of one's professional attainments, are wholy unprofessional. But when a disease is really of a serious character, the physician should not delay to apprise the relatives of the patient; and in some cases, in which the physician must employ his own judgment and discretion, the same may be made known to the patient, being careful to do so in a delicate and gentle manner, and always bearing in mind that the life of a patient frequently depends upon the words and manner of the physician in attendance.

In the practice of their profession, physicians frequently have confided to them, or in some other way become acquainted with, secrets of a moral, physical, domestic, or other nature, belonging to their patients; these should always be held sacred, never to be referred to by the physician, even in presence of the parties concerned in them, unless these commence the conversation relative thereto; and especially should they not be revealed to any other person by the physician, unless legally compelled to do so, or to clear his own reputation, should it become involved therewith. Neither is it proper nor professional for a physician to inform third parties, whether these be medical men or not, of the character of his patient's disease, in all cases, for there are many persons who shrink from having their diseases thus blazoned abroad, however innocent and unavoidable these may be; and such feelings should always be respected.

ARTICLE IX.

Physicians, their wives, their widows, and their children when under the care and authority of their parents, whether they reside at home or are travelling abroad, should be professionally attended by practitioners in their immediate neighborhood, whenever such attentions are required, without any demand being made upon them for the payment of fees; yet, should a fee or remuneration be offered the attending physician, under proper circumstances, as where the party is wealthy, etc., he should not refuse it, lest he impose upon the party a pecuniary obligation offensive to their feelings. In all other cases, the question of demanding and receiving fees rests wholly with the physician.

ARTICLE X.

Physicians should endeavor, as much as possible, to cultivate a friendly and kindly feeling among each other, notwithstanding differences of opinion upon medical subjects; and for the furtherance of this object, they should avoid misrepresenting or slandering any of their fellow physicians; they should avoid employing any direct or indirect means of

destroying their patient's confidence in them, or of improperly securing the patronage of another's patients to themselves. They should, however, render their professional services to the patients of other physicians when these last request it, with or without fee, as may be agreed upon, and without seeking to supplant the regular attending physician; and should they be called upon to attend a case in the absence, from sickness or other cause, of the attending physician, they should at once yield the case to the physician upon his arrival or recovery, unless the patient, patient's relatives, or physician, request otherwise. The fees for all professional services rendered, unless otherwise agreed upon, should be paid to the party performing such services.

It is imprudent for a physician to visit the patient of another physician, unless with the consent of the latter, as it may give rise to unjust suspicions and create jealousy and ill feeling; but, when a patient, under the charge of one physician, requests the visits of another for the purpose of ascertaining his views of the disease with which said patient is afflicted, such visit should be made; and the physician, although bound to express his opinions fairly and candidly, should be extremely careful of the reputation of the attending physician; all such visits should be paid for

upon the spot.

In all cases of accidents, sudden attacks of disease, etc., a number of physicians are frequently sent for; in such cases, in the absence of the regular attending physician of the patient or patients, the case or cases belong to the physician who first arrives, who should select, when this is necessary, from the others present, such assistance as he may require. The fees for such cases should be paid as promptly as possible.

The fees for professional services should be regulated in every city, town, village, or county, by the resident physicians of such places, and an adherence to them will tend much to establish confidence and harmony; but when a physician attempts to secure or monopolize a practice, by infringing upon the rights of others, as manifested, for instance, in rendering professional services for fees below those which are customary or tacitly agreed upon by the medical practitioners of his neighborhood, city, or town, etc., his fellow pysicians may, with good reason, cease to affiliate with him any longer on account of such unprofessional conduct.

Whenever a patient becomes dissatisfied with his attending physician, and desires to dismiss him and employ another, he has a perfect right so to do, and the physician sent for may accordingly render his services to said patient; and this action of the patient and physician should not destroy the amicable relations existing between all the parties. But no physician should attend the patient of another, unless the two be in mutual attendance, until the previous physician has been formally dismissed.

ARTICLE XI.

In case of rare, obscure, eccentric, or dangerous diseases, consultations are often required, and frequently prove advantageous to the patient. As the object of a consultation is the welfare of the patient, physicians have the right to consult with whomsoever they choose, whether with medical men or not; at such consultations, they may candidly express their views, advise as to the course to be pursued, and prescribe, if requested, for which, of course, a fee should be demanded.

Consultations should never be held in the presence of the patient, but in some private place; and the presence of a relative during the consultation should not be objected to when this is requested, as it serves to satisfy that the physicians are really occupied with the patient's good,

and tends to remove doubts and gain confidence.

When the consultation is between medical men, the attending physician should state his views first; and, afterward, should more than one be in the consultation, they will express their several views according to their age, commencing with the youngest physician first. When the selection of the consulting physicians rests upon the medical attendant, to avoid confusion, he should prefer those whose general medical opinions

are the most in harmony with his own.

When, after a consultation, subsequent attendance of the consulting physician is requested in connection with the original attendant, it would be extremely imprudent, to say the least of it, for a physician to grant this request unless the original attendant be a graduate, or a non-graduate practitioner of four years reputable practice; to do otherwise, might lead to mortifications, misrepresentations, etc., which would seriously affect the reputation and patronage of the physician. However, in all these instances, much must be left to the circumstances of the case, and to the

judgment and discretion of the physician.

When two or several physicians are attending a patient, they should, at each visit, agree upon a treatment to be pursued, and a time to meet again, and they should observe the greatest punctuality in their visits; but if, from any cause, any of the parties should fail to be present at an appointed meeting after a reasonable time, the previous treatment should be continued by the physician or physicians present, until the next meeting of the attendants. But in all cases of emergency, or when the condition of the patient is such as to demand it, any one of the attending physicians may change the treatment, of which he should notify the others at as early a period as possible, and at their next meeting explain his reasons for so doing; however, an unnecessary interference in the general treatment agreed upon, and clandestine or uncalled for visits to the patient, are reprehensible, and should lead to the dismissal of the offending individual.

When physicians attending a patient cannot agree upon the disease or the course to pursue, they may, by consent of the patient or his relatives, call in other medical assistance; or, the patient or his relatives, being informed of the character of the disagreement, may discharge and retain such of the attendants as they choose, without the discharged parties construing it into an offence or an unkindly act; for in these matters, patients and their relatives have their rights and privileges equally with the physician.

In all other matters pertaining to physicians in their duties to their patients, the public, and themselves, an observance of the ordinarily recognized rules of truth, morality, justice, and honor—a portion of which rules it has been the endeavor to introduce into this Code—should be

rigidly observed.

PROFESSOR KECKELER AND HIS SYSTEM OF THE HUMAN TEMPERAMENTS.

Among the men of advanced science of the present day, we would particularly notice Professor A. T. Keckeler, of Cincinnati, whose arrival in this city we observe heralded in the daily journals. He is now the only Professor and expounder of the Human Temperaments, first initiated by the ancients, Hippocrates and Galen, but in later days perfected and taught by the learned and astute Professor W. Byrd Powell, M.D., of Kentucky, whose eminent services in the scientific world formed the subject of much eulogistic comment. We cannot here enter into a minute discussion of the details of this vitally important subject, treating, as it does, of the mainsprings, motive-powers and action of the vital force, actuating, guid-

ing and propelling the organization, proclivities, and propensities of both

the human and animal, mental and physical structure.

Professor Keckeler's science of the temperaments, as perfected by him and proved from the result of personal observation, is equally applicable to the peculiar organization of horses, stock, &c., as with the human race; and he satisfactorily shows that the well-established fact of crossing breeds in cattle, the choice of brood stock and peculiarity of traits required in certain cases for the production of desirable qualities in animals, is clearly and certainly obtainable, by compatibility of temperament, in the human race. Upon this singularly important and valuable subject, Professor Keckeler has been invited to deliver a course of lectures in New York, but it is not at present settled whether his engagements will admit of his so doing; the importance of the science being held to be vital by the

most distinguished savants of the day.

We are, however, informed that he is now engaged in preparing for press a new edition of Professor Powell's great work on the Human Temperaments, with large additions, comprising his own studies and observations in the practice and teaching of the science, and practical illustrations from his own personal investigations during a lengthy tour through the United States and the Canadas. Professor Keckeler has gained no small amount of fame in the West—much to his own annoyance, however—from being made party to a rather singular suit in court. It appears that Professor W. Byrd Powell, whose favorite pupil he had been for some years, by will appointed Professor Keckeler his literary executor, and as a legacy bequeathed to that gentleman his head, to be used for the advancement of science. This will was warmly contested by the family of the deceased physician, but, after lengthy legal proceedings, the case was decided in favor of Keckeler, who retains his singular legacy among the large collection of crania in his cabinet. Professor Keckeler's views are certainly novel, but the depth of reasoning with which he advances them, and their evident scientific truth, are creating no small amount of interest among professional men throughout the country. He is considered the only real chirographist of the day, and readily determines character and disposition from the handwriting. We shall present our readers, on a future occasion, with a paper on the subject, treating more minutely of its intrinsic merits and usefulness.—Turf, Field and Farm, October 13, 1866.

THE CHOLERA IN MEMPHIS.—The statistics of the cholera in Memphis, Tenn., from September 1st 40 October 5th, inclusive, are as follows: "Total white cases, 551; total white deaths, 322; total black cases, 628; total black deaths, 580. This shows the total number of cases reported to be 1,174, of whom 826 had died. This is a fearful mortality. The mortality among the negroes was fearful, less than one hundred of those who were attacked having survived."

Doctored to Death.—William Goldman, at Pittsburg, Pa., fearing that a slight diarrhoa with which he was afflicted was genuine Asiatic cholera, concluded to "doctor" himself. He swallowed an entire bottle of pain-killer, and followed it with a dose of laudanum. He did not take the cholera, but the remedy did the business for him most effectually. A deep sleep succeeded the heroic doses of the antidote, from which the unfortunate man never awoke.

Two drachms camphor, half drachm of pure saltpetre, half drachm of muriate of ammonia, and two ounces of proof spirits, in a glass tube or narrow phial, will make a very good weather-guide. In dry weather the solution will remain clear. On the approach of change minute stars will rise up in the liquid, while stormy weather will be indicated by a very disturbed condition of the chemical combination.



A Monthly Record of Medicine

AND

THE COLLATERAL SCIENCES.

Vol. II.

DECEMBER, 1866.

No. 7.

ORIGINAL COMMUNICATIONS.

Introductory Lecture, delivered before the Class of 1866-'7 of the New York Eclectic Medical College.

BY PROF. J. MILTON SANDERS, M. D., LL. D.

" Doce ut discas."

JUVENAL.

"If you are anxious to learn, employ yourself in teaching, And thus will you yourself be taught." HORACE.

Ir was the custom of the ancients, previous to commencing any great undertaking requiring the aid of the intellect, to offer up prayers and sacrifices to MINERVA, the Goddess of Wisdom. The custom was a good one, but, from the tenor of some Introductory Lectures I have lately read, I am impressed with the conviction, that these propitiatory offerings have sadly gone into disuse. It is well, upon entering upon any enterprise requiring the exertion of the Intellectual Faculties, that we should propitiate the Goddess of Wisdom-if not by offering up prayers and sacrifices, by at least bringing to our aid all the industry and perseverance we may possess, and also a will which needs must be indomitable—which must not be appalled by the most adverse obstacles, nor retarded by the most apparently insurmountable

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difficulties. With such sacrifices as these we will find that in the lexicon of age, as well as in that of youth, there is no such word as Fail. It is true that during a prolonged lifetime we can gain but little knowledge at best; but this should not deter us from striving after that little, for he is the happiest who possesses within himself the most materials for thought and reflection—those materials which can ennoble the soul and expand the faculties, and contribute towards their progress, when they shall have reached that upper realm where their capacity of expansion will be infinitely greater.

Sallust says:—"He only may be said to live, and enjoy his being, who is engaged in some praiseworthy pursuit, or acquires a name by some illustrious action or useful art."

In this sentence the old author has embodied the wisdom of a lifetime. In order that you may live, enjoy your being, and that posterity may know that you have lived, it is necessary that you should drink at the Fount of Knowledge. If you possess ambition (and it is a laudable faculty, if not abused), you can gratify it only by the possession of that lever whose power can elevate and remove the greatest impediments which may obstruct your path. The ignorant are susceptible of progress, but they are incapable of exerting among men that influence which is required in order to gain esteem and admiration. The latter can only be won from mankind by that force of character derived from the possession of knowledge; for the distinction between one man and another-between the great man and the fool-lies generally in the relative amount of knowledge possessed by the one over the other.

But I did not come before you to lecture you upon the subject of ambition, or upon the faculty of winning your way in the world. These will be the problems of your after lives—he who improves the present, will find the road freest of obstacles in the future. You will find, gentlemen, that in early manhood we garner up the materials to contribute to the strength of after life. Old age, without this initiatory preparation, is bereft of its glory and its power. The wisdom that all men respect in it you will be deprived of.

Feebleness will take the seat of power—irascibility and peevishness will be substituted for dispassionate reflection—decrepitude and mental infirmity, for that wisdom which is the glory of the aged; and the sceptre you ought then to wield with such potency among your juniors will fall feeble and powerless from your hands. Then, while the opportunity is before you, discard it not, for any neglect now will be a draft upon the future, payable at old age, in the deepest regrets, the bitterest tears of repentance.

Medicine offers as fine a field for the exhibition of your ambition and usefulness as any other branch of knowledge you could devote yourselves to. Outside of medicine proper, its furthermost boundaries comprise several collateral sciences the knowledge of which will put you in possession of a lever as powerful as that of Archimedes. I was just upon the eve of pronouncing chemistry one of those collateral sciences, but at the present day this science is really at the bottom, forming one of the foundation stones of the medical superstructure. Without it, the physician at the present day would be scarcely considered a half-read man. He would be ignorant of the composition of the remedies he administers. He would be ignorant of the changes constantly ensuing within the system during health and disease. He would be ignorant of all the vital processes, and of those actions and reactions which sustain life, and bring about death. would not only be ignorant of the wonderful reaction ensuing within vegetable and animal cells-in which the thousand remedies he uses are formed, and in which the constantly ensuing reactions that sustain life are maintained—but he would be equally ignorant of those resources which conquer disease, and replace upon the cheek, pallid with disordered action, the bloom of health and of beauty.

Not to be cognizant of the important truths of chemistry, therefore, would be to rank himself as the compeer of those charlatans whose advertisements of *cure-alls* fill the columns of our daily papers.

"But what is modern chemistry, that it should merit the attention of the enlightened physician?" I think I hear some

one of you inquire. To answer this question as it seriously deserves, would scarce confine me within the limits of a folio volume; for, within the present century, it has risen from an infant in the cradle, to the proportions of a full-grown adult. From a mere play of futile experiments, well calculated to please the curious, it has risen to a chain of philosophical inductions, linking the whole universe—stretching to the furthermost boundaries of space where an atom of matter exists, and involving within its apodictics every action and reaction, every movement, every thought and emotion, every sensation, that exists. Along with mathematics we may call chemistry the science of sciences, for its astuteness of demonstration has really involved the most recondite of all natural phenomena; and not only do they implicate all objective and percipient entities, but they bind and weigh with mathematical precision the most subjective and emotive parts of intellect, taking cognizance of its phases of intensity with the exactness of the balance, and giving even passion itself Let metaphysicians wrangle their diaa numerical value. lectics with all the refinement they may bring to their aid, but it is to the chemical laws they must ultimately turn for the rational explanation of the true wearing of the soul upon its tenement of clay. The poet's flight in the regions of refined sentiment—the profound exertions of the philosopher's intellect as he eliminates truth that will never perish—the subtle workings of the inventor's thoughts, as he evokes from chaos the ideas of symmetry and adaptability, and generalizes them into beautiful mechanical perfection—all of these recondite and subtle inspirations of thought, chemistry has taught us are but the creatures of her laws, and that they are all susceptible of measurement in equivalents, as easily as the ponderable matter about us. To weigh thought may be deemed the most transcendental effort of imagination itself, but the quantity of matter contained in the urine, and its quality, we regard as an exponent of the quantity of thoughts and emotions. Certain metamorphosed constituents of the cerebral mass, we regard as representatives of certain mental exertions, and the weight of these, or their amount

excreted in the urine, gives us the amount of cerebral action necessary to throw off these constituents from its mass. amount of certain mental work consumed in study, is demonstrable in grains of phosphates excreted in the urine; and the severity of this work, or that of any kind of cerebral paroxysms, or intense mental suffering, or any kind of emotional activity, are measured accurately by the balance, and may be stated in grains; or the force necessary to eliminate a certain amount of thought, may be compared accurately with the amount of force requisite to raise a certain weight a certain height. The experiments of modern chemistry, you will perceive, have trenched within "the dome of thought, the palace of the soul," and with its numerical exactness, has taken cognizance of the true value of thought. A sudden burst of passion is measured in grains metamorphosed from the brain during its prevalence. Grief may be estimated by weight, and its paroxysms are measured with the Insanity involves the cerebral metagreatest precision. morphosis, and the chemist will predict its duration, its intensity, and its consumption of brain and nerve force, without ever seeing the patient.

Why, gentlemen, unless you have had actual experience in chemical manipulation, you will scarce conceive the delicacy of the reagents used in its investigations. Suppose you wish to test for the presence of sugar in diabetes. solution of the sugar, or glucose, add a little of the solution of sulphate of copper, and then some caustic potash. Instantly the solution will become red, even if there be present only the ten-millionth of a grain of the sugar. this is rough, compared with the following, which I will adduce as an evidence of the delicacy of chemical examina-Dissolve one grain of silver in a small quantity of pure nitric acid, and then pour this solution of silver into 3,255 gallons of water, or about 80 barrels. When well diffused through the mass, put one drop of this water upon a plate of glass, and touch it with a glass rod previously dipped into pure hydrochloric acid. The drop of solution will become turbid or milky, indicating the presence of silver, although there is contained in that drop of solution only the two-hundred-millionth of a grain of silver. A particle of silver which is only the 200,000,000th of a grain in weight is very minute, but still by means of our reagents you see we can make it appear to the eye quite perceptibly. And this is true with all matter, although, in many cases, not with the great delicacy pertaining to silver.

If thoughts and emotions may be weighed and measured in regard to their intensity, then, wherefore not measure and weigh the Imponderables?

Heat, Light, Electricity and Magnetism, were termed the Imponderables, because it was impossible to apply weight to They were thought beyond the cognizance of weight. They were regarded as "fluids" so higly attenuated that no investigation could reach them, at least so far as to arrive at any numerical idea of their relative values. Force was said to be a something and then a nothing—at one time it was an entity, at another a nonentity—now a thing of vast moment, capable of raising immense weights, and repelling or retarding enormous bodies; and the next moment underwent total annihilation, and was lost forever! All of these curious conceptions regarding force, and its coordinates, heat, light, electricity and magnetism, are things of the past. They have been brushed away by the same demonstrable investigations which characterize chemistry from most other sciences; and we now have a true and rational idea of the nature of these "Imponderables." We first ascertain that they are reciprocal entities, that the one may be converted into the other. We find that a certain equivalent of the one may be converted into just one equivalent of the other, and that this quantity of either may be measured by a certain quantity of force, and that, after all, they are only modifications of force, In the beginning, force, or momentum, was or momentum. all that existed, and this, in connection with matter, gave birth to heat, light, electricity, magnetism, and chemical affinity. I do not propose to tire you with any prolix theories or hypotheses either in Cosmogony or Cosmology: but simply to state the idea that, as these agents are convertible, there was no necessity for the creation of but one: and, as force would appear the most necessary in the begining I have given it the precedence. Not wishing to go into anything in this lecture which may trench upon hypothesis, I will confine myself to the simple enunciation, that all of these modifications of force most have originally been derived from the sun. We have but one force upon our earth which This force is that of the could not be derived from the sun. tides and its derivations. There is nothing of a scientific nature which has attracted so much attention of late as the subject of these Imponderables. Instead of being fluids not susceptible of weight, they are regarded rather as forces, their phenomena being due to motions excited in ponderable mat-As it is necessary that you should understand the nature of these forces, it will not be irrelevant to say a few words upon this great subject, the highest that can come under the cognizance of the human intellect. The rays of heat and light emanating from the sun, represent all the motion and life upon this earth, with the single exception of those of the tides. Vegetation is the medium through which we receive this force—this life. The rays of heat and light, as they impinge upon its foliage, are at once absorbed, and, we may say, organized, and form a portion of its structure. Each increment of matter that the plant stores away represents a certain amount of organized sunshine—so much dormant force. The tea, coffee, spices, and drugs we import from the hot East Indies, represent an amount of the intense heat of the sun of those tropical regions, which was poured down from it during the time of the building up of the plants which produced those principles. The plants caught the sun's fierce rays as they were showered upon their foliage, and, absorbing them, organized them into a portion of their own substance. This heat, therefore, as it entered into the organism of the plant, was not annihilated. as we would at first thought suppose. It lies there, as it were, in a dormant state, but still replete with life and vigor, and ready at the appropriate time to exert the same force that it did originally in the building up of the plant.

The quinine you give to allay fever—the morphine, the strichnine, the brucine, the aconitine, the salicine, and in fact all of those beautiful crystals you so much depend upon to mitigate and allay disease, are literally, and not figuratively, crystallized sunshine. It was the sunshine that brought them into being—that gave to them their beautiful geometrical forms, and imparted to them their powerful properties. The force which lies within your muscles is not generated by your own volition, but came originally from the sun. It was derived immediately from the vegetable world, and mediately from the flesh of the animals you have Hence we find that as we cannot create anything, so we cannot annihilate anything. You may set fire to a piece of wood, and, in common parlance, burn it up, but, after all, we have only changed its form, or the arrangement of the atoms of which it was composed; still, we have not destroyed it. If the gases emanating from it, the uncombined carbon in the form of smoke, and the ashes left bebind, are all weighed, we will find that really nothing has been lost, but that every atom forming the wood still exists, but recombined into less complex substances. We have then only accomplished a metamorphosis, and not an annihilation —we have only destroyed the form of the wood, but not its substance. Now, it requires a very powerful force to unite these atoms of the wood together so firmly as to form a vegetable fibre. This we are aware of from the fact, that an enormous force is given out upon the separation of those Do you not observe that considerable light and heat are eliminated upon applying heat to this piece of wood? This light and heat represent the force derived from the sun—it is the identical light and heat originally derived from the sun, and represents so much force. If you wish to comprehend this more clearly, apply this heat to the steamengine, and you will have an exemplification of it; or apply the light to the production of chemical affinity, and you may form by it a compound whose dissolution may blow you up. All of this force must be derived from the sun, for the plant cannot create force any more than we. In giving out this

heat and light, the plant must emit a large quantity of hydrogen gas. Now, one pound of hydrogen, in combining with eight pounds of oxygen, gives out a force sufficient to raise a weight of nine thousand pounds one mile high. enormous force is stored away in the plant with the fixation of each pound of hydrogen; and he who ingests this amount of hydrogen as a constituent of his food, must necessarily store away, or appropriate, a force sufficient to raise a weight of nine thousand pounds one mile high. Hence, everything which lives, and moves, and gives out force, either as motive or mental, must have originally derived this force from the rays of the sun. The power you perceive developed every place around you, by aid of that greatest servant of man, the steam-engine, is not the power of the present day, but that derived from the sun in ages past. In those times the rays of the sun were doubtless more fierce and powerful than they are now. The vegetation whose debris form the strata of our coal-fields, was then flourishing with a luxuriance perhaps not paralleled at the present time. They absorbed and stored away the enormous force derived from the fiery rays of that early sun, and we, millions of years after they flourished, now enjoy their light and heat, or their power.

As all motive force is derived from the sun, so is all emotive force. This I have alluded to, but it supplies the links necessary to connect the wonderful chain of earthly phenomena into one beautiful whole—linking together, by the evolutions of the same force, the operations of mind and matter.

I have stated that the Imponderables are mutually convertible, and that a certain definite amount of one will represent that of another. This you should understand. If, for instance, it requires one equivalent of zinc (or 33 grains) dissolved in acid to evolve a certain amount of electricity, the electricity generated will decompose just one equivalent, or nine grains of water. Thus, one equivalent of one kind of element contains the same force as one equivalent of another kind, although it requires very different weights to represent equivalents of different elements. This idea may be more

clearly stated by saying, that six grains of carbon contain, or are capable of giving out, as much force as 108 grains of silver, or 122 grains of antimony. Thirty-three grains of zinc. in being dissolved in acid, give out a force which will be sufficient to liberate thirty-six grains of chlorine from its This force may represent itself as electricity, combinations. or as chemical affinity; or it may assume that of magnetism. If the electricity passed into the electrolyte water, sufficient to decompose one equivalent of it-nine grains-be conveyed around a piece of soft iron, the latter is converted into a magnet, and the quantity of force this magnet will develop, or the weight it will lift, will represent one equivalent of If the gases, oxygen and hydrogen, which are evolved from the equivalent of water, decomposed by the equivalent of electricity, be exploded, they will give out just the same amount of heat that that amount of electricity would give out, were it passed through a fine platinum wire. Thus, work it as we may, we find that all of these modifications of force represent each other in definite quantities. We find, likewise, that they may all be accurately measured as force, and their value stated in foot-pounds.

As these forces are emanating from the sun in enormous quantities at every moment of time, the inquiry naturally presents itself to us, whether this force will not in time be exhausted? Now, we know that the utmost limit of temperature evolved by chemical action, is only about 4,000° F.. while the temperature of the sun's surface is 55,000° greater than it is at the equator of our earth at noon. This heat is equivalent to a force exerted by four hundred and fourteen millions of millions of horse-power; but this earth only receives the one two-thousand, three-hundred-millionth of this force. This enormous force which our planet sustains is consumed in producing the motion of the ocean's waves, and of the atmosphere; and in the production of vegetable forms—and is the source, in fact, of almost every motion upon this earth.

In regard to the manner in which the heat, which is so vital to us, is maintained in the sun, there can be but one

conclusion. It must be derived from the conversion of momentum into heat and light. These are derived from the impinging upon the sun's surface of immense numbers of asteroids. This is the only method, including chemical action, by which heat could be generated sufficient to account for that of the sun. We know that, if the motion of a body be retarded, its momentum is converted into heat. You witness this every day in the retarding of, and bringing to rest, the train upon the railroad. The brakes being applied to the wheels, as the motion of the train is retarded, fire flies from the brakes, often in such quantity as to set fire to the woodwork around. This fire existed a moment before in the If, therefore, a large body, form of force or momentum. moving with great velocity, be suddenly retarded and brought to rest, its momentum is converted into heat, the amount of the latter being in a ratio to the weight of the body and its velocity. This source of heat is therefore infinite, while that derived from chemical action is limited, and that to very narrow bounds. If this earth were suddenly arrested in its orbit, its weight and velocity being known, a heat would thereby be caused sufficient to burn up fourteen such sized globes of coal; and if this earth were then to fall into the sun—as it would inevitably do—a heat would be generated infinitely greater. The velocity of this earth upon reaching the sun, would be at least three hundred and eighty-four miles a second, and the concussion would raise the sun's temperature by eighty millions of degrees. But such is the enormous amount of heat given off by the sun, that to sustain this heat. it would require the frequent impingement of enormous bodies upon its surface. These bodies should weigh per minute at least 132 billions of tons. Hence we perceive that all forces are derived from the sun, issuing from that body in the form of light and heat, but readily convertible into other forces at any moment. These forces play a very important part, not only upon matter without our bodies, but upon that within us, as we have seen.

To light we may attribute vast and subtle changes, which we little suspected a few years ago. Everything upon

which light falls undergoes a change. Photography has initiated us into this discovery. In many cases we possess the means of bringing out, or "developing," as it is termed, these changes, and thus forming upon the tablet a pictorial delineation of the object before it. But it is not required that the surface of a body shall be especially prepared by chemical means for this purpose. Any surface is susceptible of taking an image of an object placed before it, and could no doubt be brought out pictorially to our view by adopting the necessary reagents for that purpose. Could these be discovered (and they will undoubtedly be), the very walls of our apartments would reveal in pictorial records the scenes that light have impressed upon them; and, as the illustrious Prof. Draper remarks, the tombs of the Egyptians might be made to reveal the dusky forms of those who occupied them last, as they laid to rest the remains of their kings.

We are indeed surrounded with wonders, and it is but a few years ago that these wonders were suspected. A variety of subtle agents are continually at work effecting the most important and vital changes. With every flash of lightning, the ambient air is revivified and the elements of disease are being replaced by those of health and vitality; for each flash of lightning imparts to the oxygen, for hundreds of yards surrounding its passage, a chemical vigor it did not possess before. When thus ozonized, it is gifted with the force to decompose the attenuated matter of epidemics, and thus to preserve human life. But this is not all. Gifted with those more intense chemical affinities, it combines with nitrogen, forming nitric acid. This is carried to the earth by the rain, and by this means supplies vegetation with a quantity of nitrogen it could not so easily acquire by any other means.

There are potent agents at work, which, although silent and not perceptible to our senses, are none the less wonderful. Light itself is one of these. Every substance upon which it falls undergoes at the place of contact, if not throughout its mass, a series of molecular changes which endure during the existence of the body. Examine the photographer's plate after the light has impinged upon it. No change is

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perceptible to the eye, and it looks as blank and undisturbed as it did before: still wonderful changes have ensued by the falling of the rays of light upon that surface. Years after this, if the proper reagent is flowed upon it, a picture will start into being, and startle you with the delicacy and beauty of its details. This picture existed in that film upon the metal surface in all of its perfection, but coiled up there so latent that no human sense could detect it; and would have lain there for an indefinite length of time unsuspected, had not proper reagents been resorted to in order to evoke it. It is thus with any surface upon which a ray of light falls. molecular change is effected by the light, and the dormant image of any object which these rays may depict thereon, is forever stamped in the atoms of that substance, and may, by the aid of the proper reagents, be made visible to our How startling is the thought, that every act we commit is forever recorded by that subtle agent, light! that the slightest thought or emotion is stamped upon the organism, and bears its impress with us to the grave! I say that every act is recorded by light. If these acts be committed within the secret walls of our apartments, the walls tell the tale:—if they are in the open day they are equally recorded, for the rays of light which have impinged upon us bear away with them forever into space the enduring record of our acts, and millions of years hence may convey to some astronomer in a distant planet, a pictorial record of them. Even at this moment some philosopher in a far distant planet -too far off for us to rightly comprehend the extent of the vast void which intervenes between it and us-may be gazing at the rays of light which left the Crucifixion, and thus be contemplating at this moment that solemn scene.

We must not suppose that we can escape this subtle agent, light, for shut it out of your apartments as you may, it is there yet in all its potency. Recollect that light is but the coördinate of heat, and that images are as readily made by the latter as by light. These calorific images may, one of these days, reveal in vivid pictures the secret doings of us all; for although light, as we view it, does appear to

be the potent principle which causes the molecular disturbance that results in the production of a picture, the latter is really due to a series of rays that possess neither light nor heat, but which accompany both, and are subject to the same law of refraction and reflection as its associates.

Gentlemen, in a rather erratic manner, I have striven to impart to you as vivid a conception of the nature of the Imponderables, and their correlates, force and momentum, as could be done in so brief a space as is allowed me in this lecture. At a future time I will dwell upon the subject again, for the Imponderables, as I still term them, have risen from very small importance in medicine to a subject of vital moment. They are connected with our very being; they are intimately woven into the texture of our nature, and are implicated in every vital movement, in every thought, and in every emotion. Without their coöperation all matter, now so replete with life and activity, would be dead—all order would be supplanted by chaos, and the wise ordinances which made this sphere an universal pæan of harmony and beauty, would exist no more.

Gentlemen, I feel that I cannot close these remarks without referring to the irreparable loss Eclecticism has sustained in the demise of one of her most learned and talented advo-I refer to the late Prof. W. Byrd Powell. death, not only has Eclecticism lost one of her most earnest, active, and talented members; but science in general, and especially that in relation to the cerebral powers, has met with a loss which ages may not be enabled to supply. But he has lived his allotted time upon this contracted sphere, and, taking wings, has left its narrow confines for fields of progress more boundless, and more in harmony with his mental advancement upon this earth. That his great intellect is now progressing onward to higher spheres of knowledge there is not a doubt, and it will continue to soar onward and upward until it reaches the brighest realm, and is fitted to be in the presence of the Great Supreme.

Favorite Remedies and Recipes.

BY PAUL W. ALLEN, M. D.,

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Perhaps we cannot do a more useful service to the readers of the Review, than to present a few papers upon the topics suggested by the title of this article.

First of all, a remedy must be efficient. The practical physician ever has in view the certainty of action of his remedy, as a most important consideration.

Again: It is highly desirable that medicines should not be too bulky; especially such medicines as we wish personally to dispense from the pocket-case, or medicine trunk. To the physician in city practice, who never uses a medicine trunk, it is no small recommendation that a medicine is concentrated; and patients ever have a wonderful predilection for those which do not require to be given in large doses.

Lastly: We enter a special plea for pleasant medicines. There has been a wonderful change in public sentiment, in this regard, within the last ten years. It has been our fortune to prescribe in many families who have previously employed homeopathic physicians; and by such families, and by others, we have often been complimented upon the palatable character of our remedies. An extensive observation, with special reference to this subject, has entirely convinced us that very many patients, including a large majority of wealthy and educated persons, will not take unpleasant medicines for any considerable time. The physician of pleasant medicines is the popular physician, if he be only reasonably There are a few prominent and most excellent remedies which cannot be made pleasant; but if pharmaceutists and physicians would devote special attention to this subject, almost every medicinal agent could be presented in some form comparatively agreeable. Besides, our medicines will be given much more punctually and faithfully, if they are thus presented; and the success of our remedies is thus far better secured. Nor is this all, for it seems to us that no physician has a moral right to give a nauseous dose to his patient, when, by a little care, he can make it pleasant and acceptable.

Permit us to suggest that physicians can be very useful to each other, in this respect, in their consultations. ever found our professional brethren much pleased with suggestions as to methods of making their mixtures more palatable, and with new and pleasant recipes; so much so, that for a few years past, we have always made it a rule, in our numerous consultations, to suggest at least one pleasant and efficient remedy,—either for the case prescribed for, or some other recipe which we have supposed would be valuable to the physician, in the course of his varied professional duties. We must say that, generally, medical men have generously responded to our kindness, by presenting us with new, efficient, and desirable prescriptions. The only precaution we have found necessary is this: to definitely understand whether the physician designs the recipe for us alone, or whether he gives it to us with the understanding that we may make it generally known. Both principle and courtesy imperatively require that every physician should be strictly conscientious and reliable in this respect.

We will devote the remainder of this brief paper to a few favorite remedies and recipes, belonging to the class of—

APERIENTS AND CATHARTICS.

No. 1.—Compound Powder of Leptandrin and Liquorice. Take of Leptandrin, one drachm; of pulverized Liquorice Root, one half drachm. Triturate the leptandrin to a fine powder, add the liquorice, and triturate together until thoroughly mixed.

The design of the above very simple formula is to secure a nice preparation of leptandrin, for permanent use. The liquorice seems to have no attraction for atmospheric moisture, and so separates the particles of leptandrin that the compound powder forms a very nice preparation. It can be kept for months without becoming sticky and dauby, and without

forming into hardened lumps, like the clear leptandrin. It is much pleasanter to the taste—very palatable in fact; and if left in powders for several days, is scarcely at all liable to become moist, or to stick to the papers.

The bulk of one drachm of leptandrin, and of one-half drachm of liquorice, is nearly the same; so that the practitioner, in dealing out this compound powder from his pocket-case, will make the powders just twice as large as he would if they were clear leptandrin.

We will suggest to the practitioner that, whenever he opens a fresh bottle of leptandrin, he should see that it is provided with a tightly fitting cork. If he will do this, and will prepare the above powder from time to time, he can always prescribe this valuable remedy in its full strength and purity, and in a most agreeable form.

We are convinced that some of our pharmaceutists are preparing a better leptandrin than formerly—less liable to become sticky, and harden into lumps; but, one year since, when we called the attention of the Massachusetts Eclectic Medical Society to the above formula, we found that many of its members had almost entirely discarded the use of a remedy which they otherwise valued very highly, because of its forming a hardened lump in their pocket-case vials, or turning to a dauby mass when prescribed in papers.

No. 2.—Syrup of Blackroot.—Take of Blackroot, (Leptandra Virginica,) in coarse powder, one-half pound; put it in a vessel, and add one quart of cold water; place over a slow fire, and let it simmer one hour; strain off the infusion through firm cloth. If there be not a pint of the infusion, add water to make a pint. Heat again, and, as soon as hot, add two pounds of white sugar. When cold, add to each two ounces of the syrup one drachm of the essence of anise.

If the physician prefer, he need not add the essence, but flavor the syrup extemporaneously, as he prescribes it, and as the patients may prefer. Thus, when using this medicine for some time, we can flavor it alternately with anise, sassafras, or wintergreen, or other favorite.

In the above syrup the active properties of one-half pound Vol. II.—No. 7.

of Leptandra Virginica are incorporated with about three pints of liquid. In other words, we have the strength of 3,840 grains of Blackroot in 384 drachms of syrup, each teaspoonful of the syrup representing the strength of ten grains of the root. Perhaps, in thus making this syrup, we do not get the entire medicinal properties of the Blackroot; but we certainly get most of it, and we know that what we do get is unadulterated and pure.

This syrup may not be an entirely reliable one unless prepared often. The evaporation renders it liable to form a thin sugary coat upon its surface, and if kept for a long time, it is liable to ferment, as it contains no spirit. But we need this medicine mostly in the summer months; and by keeping it in a cool place, and preparing it often, we obviate every difficulty; or, if we wish to keep it for months, we can add a suitable quantity of gin or whiskey. But for children and infants we greatly prefer it without any alcoholic admixture.

The valuable cholagogue, aperient, and tonic properties of the Blackroot are too familiar to the Eclectic physician to require any comment. We especially recognize in this agent an efficacy to restore a natural state of the alvine discharges in diarrhœa and dysentery and difficult dentition, beyond any other remedy. To get the properties of this agent in an agreeable form is what we have all desired. This syrup is quite acceptable to both children and infants. When we are obliged to give leptandrin for any considerable time, as in the protracted diarrhea of difficult dentition, our little patients become nauseated and disgusted with it, and the nurse dislikes to give it. This syrup makes an excellent substitute for it.

Again, if we make powders of leptandrin, it requires considerable time; if we use the syrup, we can in a moment give enough for any required time.

And yet again, if we wish to give the agent each night, and at no other time, which is sometimes an excellent plan, we can at once combine it with any required proportion of the solution of morphia. In such cases we would give as

little morphia as is possibly consistent, but what we do give we generally prefer to give at night, and at no other time.

The morphia not only secures sleep and prevents discharges during the night, but it renders the operation of the leptandra less griping, whilst it does not seem in the least to interfere with its cholagogue action.

No. 3.—Mixture of Valerian, Magnesia, and Opium.

R Tinct. Valerianse, f 3 j.

Husband's Magnesise, 3 ij.

Tinct. Opii, f 3 ij.

Aquse Menth. Piperitse, f 3 iij.

Olei Anisi, m xl.

Sig. Shake well, and take one teaspoonful, clear.

M.

A recipe similar to this may be found in a work by the late Professor Horace Green, of this city; but his prescription is made with the ordinary carbonate of magnesia, and contains only one-half as much opium, and he particularly recommends it for flatulence, cardialgia, etc. Doubtless his recipe is an excellent remedy, or at least palliative, for those affections; but we have found the above formula an excellent nervine, antacid, and aperient. It is of particular value when we wish to give an opiate, and not constipate the Nervous and hysterical cases, and many chronic, incurable affections, require an opiate at night; and it is a decided advantage to them if we can at the same time secure an action of the bowels in the morning. Such persons may use this prescription with much advantage. Its relative aperient and narcotic effects may of course be varied by altering the quantities of the tr. opii and the magnesia. prefer Husband's magnesia, because it is so much stronger that the mixture is thinner, and therefore much pleasanter. The remedy corrects the secretions of the stomach and bowels, gives a good night's rest, and does not destroy the morning appetite, like most opiate preparations. If there be cough, it also allays that for the night. It is really pleasant to the taste.

No. 4.—Aromatic Fluid Extract of Senna.

R. Ext. Fluidi Sennæ, (Thayer's,) f 3 vij. Tinct. Olei Gaultheriæ, f 3 j.

M.

For Adult: Sig. Take three teaspoonfuls in a tablespoonful of cold water, and repeat in four hours if it does not operate.

For a Child of one or two years: Sig. Take one teaspoonful in two teaspoonfuls of cold water, and repeat in four hours if it does not operate.

We have always found Thayer's Fluid Extract of Senna a reliable article, and, so far as we could judge, of uniform strength. We have not been so fortunate with this extract when made by other manufacturers, though we presume that some other manufacturers make a reliable article. The above is the most pleasant active cathartic with which we are acquainted, unless it be the sugar-coated pills. It is thorough, and entirely agreeable to both adults and children.

111 East 82d street, Nov. 17, 1866.

[To be continued.]

On the Anatomy, and some of the Surgical Diseases of the Urethra.

BY EDWIN FREEMAN, M. D.,

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The urethra is the excretory passage for the urine, and in the male serves the same purpose in regard to the semen. It is a musculo-membranous canal, beginning at the neck of the bladder and terminating at the meatus urinarius, and from the great variety of diseases to which it is subject, its structure, form, direction, and relation to surrounding parts, should be well understood by every medical man. In a healthy urethra, each part is well adapted to the performance of its particular function, but when a part is deranged, the whole apparatus participates in the trouble. The bladder is a sac similar in structure, and capable of contraction and expansion, situated in the pelvis, in the median line, behind the pubes, for the reception of the urine, from which it is at intervals expelled through the urethra. By this arrange-

ment a constant dribbling of the urine, as it is secreted by the kidneys, is prevented. The direction of the urethra is from the neck of the bladder, forward and downward beneath the symphysis pubis, when it curves slightly upward, embracing the symphysis, and then, rising a little in front of it, enters the groove on the under surface of the corpora cavernosa penis. Its direction further onwards depends on the condition of that organ; continuing forward and upward in the direction of the curve when it is erect, and curving in the opposite direction when the organ is relaxed. It is usually from eight to nine inches long, but the extreme dimensions, according to measurements taken by Whately from forty-eight subjects, were nine inches, six lines; and seven inches, six lines. According to Horne, it is four lines in width, excepting at the orifice, where it is three lines wide; but it varies some in width in different portions, being greatest in the prostatic portion. The different portions of the urethra are named, according to location or structure, prostatic, membranous, and spongy portions. The prostatic, which forms, as it were, a continuation of the bladder and commencement of the urethra, is surrounded by the prostate gland. It is about an inch and a quarter in length, spindle-shaped, wider in the middle than at either end, and wider at the posterior than at the anterior part, where it is continuous with the membranous portion. That portion between the prostate gland and the bulb of the urethra, is the membranous portion. It is about three-fourths of an inch in length upon its upper surface, and half an inch upon its lower surface, the difference being produced by the projection backwards of the bulb. It lies about an inch under the arch of the pubis, from which it is separated by erectile tissue and veins. Its direction is upward and forward, piercing the triangular ligament or deep perineal fascia, the layers of which are separated at that point, so that the most of this portion of the urethra is included between them, a very small portion is situated behind the posterior layer, and both layers are prolonged over the urethra, one forward and the other backward. Below is a triangular

space, between it and the rectum, having its base forward and downward, and its apex upward and backward. It is generally in this triangular space that the urethra is divided in the operation for lithotomy. The spongy portion, the longest part of the urethra, usually about six inches in length, extends from the termination of the membranous portion to the meatus urinarius, at its extremity. It is applied to the under surface of the corpora cavernosa, and contained in the corpus spongiosum, in front of the symphysis pubis. It has a uniform diameter of about one-fourth of an inch, being dilated behind in the bulb forming the bulbous portion, and forward within the gland, forming the fossa navicularis. The first portion of the urethra is surrounded by the prostate gland, which, in the erect position of the body, is placed just below and behind the lower border of the pubic symphysis, a distance of three-eighths or five-eighths of an inch intervening between the main body of the prostate and the symphysis, which is occupied by fascial, cellular and muscular tissue. The organ is directed somewhat obliquely downward and forward, so that the apex is the lowest portion, the base being uppermost and applied to the neck of the bladder; the anterior face is directed towards the pubes, and the posterior towards the rectum. masses of the gland lie on either side of the arethra; a stratum of prostatic tissue, about two lines in thickness, lies in front, and another about four lines thick behind it. This is not constant, for it is sometimes thicker in front than behind, and The lateral porsometimes the strata are of equal thickness. tions are called lateral lobes; the anterior, anterior commissure; and the posterior, median portion or middle lobe, and posterior commissure. The entire gland is shaped somewhat like a full-grown chestnut, and the measurement of the transverse diameter at the base is about an inch and a half; of the antero-posterior diameter, about an inch; while its depth is about three-quarters of an inch, and it weighs about six The proper capsule of the organ covers in the whole organ, excepting at the base and apex, where the urethra enters and issues; and its inner surface is continuous with the stroma of the gland, sending off prolongations into its substance. The gland is held in place by the bladder

above and behind; by the recto-vesical fascia reflected backward and laterally upon it; in front by the anterior true ligaments of the bladder and the levatores prostatæ muscle. The vascular supply is chiefly from the vesico-prostatic, a branch of the inferior vesical, and from small branches from the internal pudic artery. The nerves are from the prostaticplexus, a branch of the hypogastric plexus. The structure of the gland is multi-lobular, each lobule being imbedded in a stroma of muscular and elastic tissue, and having its excretory duct, which opens into the urethra, by the side of the verumontanum. The proper gland structure forms but a small part of the whole mass. Kolliker says (" Manual of Human Microscopic Anatomy," published in 1860): "The prostate, according to my observations, which are confirmed by V. Ellis, and partly also by Jarjavay, is a very muscular organ, the glandular substance scarcely contributing more than one-third, or the half of the entire mass."

Professor Ellis, of University college, says of this gland: "The prostate is essentially a muscular body, consisting of circular or orbicular involuntary fibres, with one large central hole for the passage of the urethra, and another smaller oblique opening, directed upward below the former, for the transmission of the common ejaculatory seminal ducts to the central urinary canal. The few longitudinal fibres on the upper surface of the prostate, which are derived from the external layer of the bladder, can scarcely be said to form a part of that body. Its circular fibres are directly continuous behind, without any separation, with the circular fibres of the bladder; and in front a thin stratum, about one-thirtieth of an inch thick, is prolonged forward from it, around the membranous part of the urethra, so as to separate this tube from the surrounding voluntary constrictive muscle.....Within, and quite distinct from the circular fibres, lies the tube of the urethra, incased by its submucous layer of longitudinal Toward the lower and outer aspects the fibres are less firmly applied together, especially where the vessels enter; and they appear to be superadded to those which join the coat of the bladder. As only so small a portion of the

prostate is glandular, the propriety of calling that body a gland is doubtful; for the small secreting glands contained in it are but appendages of the mucous membrane, which project amongst the muscular fibres in the same way that the other glands of the urethra extend into the surrounding submucous tissues." Outside of those two principal layers there is a continuation of mixed pale, muscular, connective and elastic fibres, and of the gland structure; some fibres radiating outward from the circular fibres to the capsule, and others interlacing among the elements of the gland structure, so as to subject them, during contraction, to a certain degree of compression.

The mucous membrane of the prostatic urethra lies next internal to the thin layer of pale longitudinal muscular fibres, and is the lining of the canal. It is covered with the columnar variety of epithelium, always arranged in two layers, a superficial and deep layer; and has, when fresh, a pale, pinkish yellow tint, there being fewer minute bloodvessels than are found in the membranous and bulbous portions of the urethra, where a redder tinge consequently exists. floor of the canal, at the orifice of the bladder, has a slight prominence, called the uvula vesicæ, produced, as some say, by the middle lobe, but really by an interlacement of muscular fibres from the inner coat of the bladder, beneath the mucous membrane, which fibres are sometimes apt to be unduly developed, so as to offer a serious impediment to micturition. From the uvula forward, the canal widens and the floor becomes depressed (sinus prostaticus) and broken by a central longitudinal elevation, the verumontanum, which commences in a faint whitish line, directly in front of the uvula, and, gradually rising for six or eight lines, reaches its highest point, a line and a half. It there widens and becomes rounded, and then, suddenly diminishing in height as it advances forward, gradually loses itself in the floor of the prostatic and membranous urethra. Into the sinus prostaticus, on each side of the verumontanum, the ducts of the prostatic lobules, from 20 to 24 or 30 in number, empty. anterior border of the verumontanum, near the summit, there

is a slit-like opening, leading into a sac in that elevation, called by different names, as utricle, uterus masculinus, vesicula prostatica, and sinus pocularis. The sac is somewhat oval in form, from two and a half to four lines in length, and from two to three at its greatest breadth, although occasionally found both larger and smaller. Its lining membrane is continuous with that of the urethra, and contains mucous follicles, which appear sometimes to secrete a dark brown and jelly-like substance, with which it is filled. The ejaculatory ducts, after penetrating the base of the prostate gland, behind the opening of the urethra, and obliquely to the axis of that canal, open into it by a slit-like opening, upon the border or just within the orifice of the sinus pocularis. From this description of the muscular tissue of the prostate gland, which is under the control of the involuntary nervous system, and of the prostatic urethra, it is easily explainable why that structure, when there is slight irritation of the mucous membrane, or nervous irritation, so strongly resists the introduction of an instrument into the bladder, and why spasmodic stricture, in this portion of the canal, should be so common.

The length of the membranous portion of the urethra has already been given, and its location between the separated layers of the triangular ligament of the urethra, or deep perineal fascia, the posterior of which is reflected backward upon the prostate gland, and the anterior forward upon the bulb of the urethra, while its lateral borders are attached firmly to the borders of the rami of the ischia and pubes. The mucous membrane is of the columnar variety of epithelium, is of a redder tint than that of the prostate, from its greater vascularity, and arranged in longitudinal folds, when the canal is empty, and smooth when it is distended. External to the mucous layer is a delicate layer of pale longitudinal involuntary muscular fibres, which is continued forward through the spongy portion; and outside of that, a thin stratum, a thirtieth of an inch thick, of involuntary circular fibres, continuous with those of the prostate, and which terminate at the bulb. More externally, surrounding the

membranous portion, is a delicate extension of erectile tissue, continuing from the corpus spongiosum backward to the prostate gland; and, external to all, is the insertion of the fan-like compressor urethræ muscles of Wilson and Guthrie, which arise from the under surface of the symphysis pubis, and the upper part of the borders of the rami of the ischia, and surrounding the urethra are inserted into a raphé on its upper and lower surfaces, from the bulb in front to the apex of the prostate behind. All of those muscular layers are very thin, and this part of the canal has no firm substance surrounding it, like the prostatic and spongy portions; hence it is sometimes ruptured by the catheter, in an attempt to force it through a stricture located there. When that is the case, the urine is let into the recto-vesical space, and may produce serious The spongy portion of the urethra is surconsequences. rounded by the corpus spongiosum, which commences opposite the symphysis, and below and in front of the triangular ligament, by a considerable expansion, called the bulb, and terminates, at the extremity of the penis, by another larger expansion, called the glans penis. It lies nearer the upper than the lower surface of that body, and terminates at the extremity of the glans, at the meatus urinarius. That portion of it within the bulb, is called the bulbous portion of The bulb lies deep in the perinæum, filling the the urethra. interval between the crura of the corpora cavernosa, and its size varies in different persons, and according to the state of the penis. It projects below the termination of the membranous urethra, which opens into its upper part, after penetrating the triangular ligament, and receives the insertion of a portion of the accelerator urinæ muscle. body of the corpus spongiosum, in front of the bulb, is cylindrical, slightly tapering toward the glans. It is a trabeculated structure, surrounded by a thin, but firm, fibrous envelope, and containing within it longitudinal interlacing muscular fibres and erectile tissue, the latter of which consists, essentially, of an intricate venous plexus lodged in the interspaces between the trabeculæ. The veins of this plexus communicate so freely with one another that they present, on a section, a decidedly cellular appearance. They communicate with the dorsal veins of the penis, and with the prostatic plexus and pudendal veins. The arteries are derived from the internal pudic. The mucous membrane of this part of the canal is of the columnar variety, except near the meatus, where it is laminated. It is arranged in longitudinal folds when the canal is not distended, is of a redder tint in the bulbous portion, and has, especially upon its floor, numerous lacunæ, which are the orifices of glands and follicles, situated in the submucous tissue, and called the glands of Littre. One lacuna, larger than the rest, called lacuna magna, is situated an inch and a half from the meatus, on the upper surface of the fossa navicularis. They sometimes intercept the point of the catheter or bougie in its passage to the bladder. The ducts of the small glands of Cowper open into the floor of the bulbous urethra. Outside of the mucous membrane is a thin plane of pale longitudinal fibres, continuous with that of the other portions of the urethra, and external to that, the tissue proper of the corpus spongiosum. The triangular ligament of the urethra, or deep perineal fascia, sends a prolongation forward upon the bulb, as the urethra passes through it. Its lateral borders are attached to the rami of the ischia and pubes, and its posterior border is continuous with the posterior border of the deep layer of the superficial perineal fascia, which is reflected backwards, in front of the rectum, to meet it. Therefore extravasation of urine, from rupture of this portion of the urethra with the catheter, is confined to the parts about the scrotum and penis, and inferior and lateral portions of the abdomen; being prevented from getting to the parts around the anus (ischiorectal fossa), by the attachments of the fascia just described. The lining membrane of the urethra is continuous with the covering of the glans, through the meatus urinarius, with the mucous membrane of the bladder, through the mouth of the bladder, and with that of the vesiculæ seminales, and vasa deferentia, through the ejaculatory ducts. From various causes it is subject to a great variety of pathological conditions, some of which will now be described.

No. 93 E. 17th st., New York.

PERISCOPE.

Medical Manners; Advice to Young Men.

THERE is a great want in our medical colleges, namely, a professor of good manners. If a young man ever expects to succeed in polite life, he must clearly recognize the necessity of conducting himself as a gentleman. We have very little space, therefore we must be brief in the few hints we propose to give.

When you enter a room, never offer your hand; if that is to be a part of the ceremony of recognition, wait till your friend offers his; he is to welcome you to his house; you are not receiving him.

Never offer an ungloved hand to a lady who is not ill; physicians' hands are often looked upon with suspicion; besides some people's hands are cold or always perspiring.

Never sit in her chair; if you have any perception, you can always tell it; to take that chair is an insult to her.

Never sit in an easy-chair, or even an arm-chair, if you wish to deport yourself elegantly; if you are fatigued when you go home, lie down on a sofa or couch, which you should always have in your office. If you are watching at the bed-side, it is another matter; then you become for the time as a brother, and may be treated as such.

Never spit or apply a tooth-pick, or make an audible noise of any kind with your tongue, except articulate speech, in presence of any person; if you will do such things, polite people will always consider you a very low fellow.

Never cut, brush, pick or trim your finger nails in presence of any one, not even your servant, for fear you may forget yourself and do it in presence of a stranger; which, if he or she be a polite person, must classify you with vulgar people.

Never take up any article from a table, whether one of taste, however trifling, or a surgical instrument in your friend's office, to examine it; if your opinion is desired, it will be presented to you; if not, take no notice of it, unless

it be evidently placed there for admiration, and not to be touched; then you may notice it politely if you are intimate; if not, say nothing about it. Books are exceptions to this rule; they are supposed to be placed there to be read if waiting; use them carefully, and replace precisely whence you took them.

Never tilt back your chair; it conveys evidence of being ill at ease; it requires effort, and is never done by well-bred people.

Never go in presence of a lady if you smoke or chew tobacco; it makes you smell bad, and is horribly offensive to most well-bred people. Never use any kind of perfume; if you do, people will have cause to think you labor under some disease which requires concealment.

Never wear jewelry of any kind, unless you would be a top.

Never go out of your house till you have thoroughly made your toilet. Keep your hands from your head and beard; if you have occasion, apply your handkerchief, and immediately after its use put it in your pocket; it is not an object of display, and is not supposed to be agreeable when flirted about.

Never approach a lady near enough to touch her dress with your feet; never place one leg over the other. If you wish to feel the pulse, or make any physical examination, do it with strict attention to delicacy and gentleness, and after you have done, remove your chair a short distance.

Never give a patient, or any one else, your breath, or receive his or hers if possible; you can easily avert your head and avoid it.

Clean your feet, and knock at the door, when entering the meanest hovel of the most wretched patient; always remove your hat on entering, especially the apartments of colored people, for they are usually very polite, and it degrades your profession to be inferior to them in civility.

Never allow the slightest interference of a stranger in your operations or prescriptions; it is the business of the nurse and attendants to obey, not to direct.

Never argue or start any subject of dispute, medical or religious; you are not supposed the spiritual, but the medical adviser; and if your patient will argue on medical matters, the impoliteness is not on on your side; if he persists, you can avoid it by taking your leave.

Never pay an unnecessary visit; if your visits are those of friendship let it be so understood.

Always send in your bill, even if you are the family attendant, a fortnight at farthest after attendance, whilst the memory of the services is fresh; it saves hard feelings at the settlement, for people are very apt to forget the trouble they gave you when they see your bill.

If a patient ask your opinion of another physician during your attendance, he means one of two things; either to propose a consultation with you, or he is contemplating your discharge, and wants you to commit an offence by speaking lightly of the man about whom he is questioning you; behave like a man—give the absent his actual due of merit to the letter; if you know him to be a quack or a scoundrel, decline politely an answer, and say you do not wish to meet him, but will cheerfully retire in his favor. Never start any objection, unless you feel it a sacred duty, in reference to your patient's safety; then you may calmly speak the truth, and let him make another proposition; as a general rule you will find it necessary to retire, but you have done your duty. Any inquiry at other times than those of illness, must be politely answered with as much favor to the absent as possible. If he be not an educated and regular practitioner of scientific medicine, give your views distinctly; you will only be annoyed by such patients; if they desire quackery, they will have it; their own pride of opinion is at stake, and if you oppose them, they become enemies and slander you.

If you esteem the friendship of a medical or surgical friend of consequence to yourself, and you make a call on him, don't, for heaven's sake, bore him; get up and leave his office immediately on the entrance of a person on business. If you are invited to remain, never open your mouth to ask a question or make a remark, unless your friend addresses

you. If you speak to the patient on the subject of his disease, or volunteer any advice, you should expect immediate reproof; it is the height of rudness and impropriety.

Never invite a friend to witness an operation or to see a patient, unless you have asked it as a favor, beforehand; and do not be surprised if he should decline, particularly if you are not supposed to be his equal in reputation, and the patient be one of consequence; you may not in his opinion be capable of managing the case; and if he goes, he incurs the responsibility of the visit without the fee; that is selfish and unfair in you. If you invite him to consult, and the patient has not desired it, you ought to pay the fee, unless it is understood to be a favor to you; then you ought not to do it often, unless you are his equal and in the habit of returning the favor.—Scalpel.

Paralysis Produced by Phosphorus.

M. Gallavardin, of Lyons, has been led to publish the results of his experience on the above subject, in consequence of a paper which recently appeared in the Gazette des Hopitaux from the pen of M. Demarquay. In this latter, the writer, though purporting to describe all the cases of paralysis consequent on poisoning, omitted all those due to the action of phosphorus. These, however, M. Gallavardin now He quotes from a memoir he some time since published on Phosphoric Paralysis. The following are the cases which occurred in man and animals:—Paralysis of the left arm, 1; paralysis of both hands, 1; paralysis of the anterior limbs, 2; paralysis of the four limbs, 6; paraplegia, 4; paraplegic symptoms, 4; hemiplegic symptoms, 4; opisthotonos, 2; trismus, 2; muscular convulsions of face, 1; paralysis of tongue, 3; convulsions of eyelids and eyemuscles, 1; symptoms of paralysis of third pair, 2; spasm or paralysis of the sphincter ani, 5; spasm or paralysis of the sphyncter of the bladder, 8; general progressive paralysis, 1; partial paralysis, 1; paralytic symptoms, 2; muscular weakness, 19; trembling of body and limbs, 8; tonic or clonic convulsions, 20; convulsive movements of diaphragm, 1; momentary paralysis of heart, 1; fatty degeneration of muscles, 4; fatty degeneration of heart, 4.

Citrate of Soda in Diabetes.

M. GUYOT-DANECY, basing his practice upon the theory that diabetes arises from imperfect combustion of the glucose of the blood, proposes to employ citrate of soda in order to supply the alkaline carbonate which is necessary to the progressive chemical change of the glucose. He substitutes the citrate for the carbonate, because, he says, it does not affect the function of digestion. He administers the salt in doses of from four to eight grammes. His analyses, he alleges, demonstrate that sugar disappears from the urine after the administration of the citrate. Citrate of soda may be mixed with food instead of salt, and with it the use of ordinary bread and starchy matters ceases to be objectionable.

Long Umbilical Cords a Source of Danger to the Life of Fætus. (Edinburgh Medical Journal, April, 1866.)

"At the February Meeting of the Obstetrical Society, Dr. Inglis exhibited two umbilical cords, each over four feet long. They were taken from the same patient, the first one four years since, the other that morning. At both times the child died from strangulation of the cords previous to delivery. This recurrence, he said, was not uncommon, and had been mentioned by him at a meeting of the Royal Medical Society in 1858, when he showed a cord five feet and four inches in length, taken from a patient who had previously lost a child from the same cause. Since then this same patient had lost another child in the same manner." The frequency with which the child's life is endangered from coiling of the cord around the neck makes it desirable that

this complication should be ascertained before the head is born. Dr. Haake—quoted in the British Foreign Medico-Chirurgical Review, for January—says it may be done by examining with the finger, per rectum. The finger can easily be carried above the head so as to feel the cord and its pulsations.

EDITORIAL.

Is Mercury Poisonous?

In the present advanced state of chemical science it is really incomprehensible how a set of men can be found who will administer mercury as a remedial agent. Whether the human mind has degenerated in its moral development, or whether the great mass of physicians have retrograded in knowledge, or -which is the same -. whether they are standing still and allowing the world to pass them and leave them far in the rear of progress, we cannot assert. To administer mercury at the present day is irrefragable proof that one of the above conditions certainly exists. The investigations of chemists have led to the most startling developments in regard to the affinity of the pernicious metals for organic matter, both effete and vital. In the year 1845 Prof. Sanders, of the Eclectic Medical College of New York, proved by experiments that have frequently been repeated and never yet denied, except by those incompetent to test their truth, that mercury, copper, arsenic, lead and antimony, and all other metals not a normal constituent of the system, can be electrolyzed from it without in the least disturbing those metals which form component parts of the body. Now it is a law, developed by Prof. Faraday, that none but compounds will admit of electrolysis; hence mercury per se cannot be electrolyzed, but ere that can be done it must exist in the system in combination with some of the tissues of the body. Thus electrolysis has proved incontestably that mercury, instead of acting as a remedial agent, at once obeys its powerful affinities, and forms insoluble and durable compounds with the living tissues. These compounds exist throughout life, unless decomposed by a strong voltaic current. All of those terrible manifestations of inscrutable disease, termed by the Allopathic destroyers. "Mercurial Diseases," proceed only from the presence of these mercurial compounds. Remove this mercury, and then only will these affections cease.

We said that mercury has a powerful affinity for organic matter. This can be easily demonstrated by adding a solution of mercury to organic matter, when a flocculent precipitate will at once be formed. This is a compound of the mercury with the organic matter. prove this, heat some of it in a test-tube, when the compound will be decomposed and the mercury will be precipitated in the cold portion of the tube, as a bright mirror; or submit this organo-mercuric compound to hydrochloric acid, when it will become decomposed; the mercury will be dissolved as a bichloride. Now add a little iodide of potassium, when a precipitate of the brilliant red biniodide of mercury will be produced. The late investigations of chemists have proved that mercury possesses an intense affinity for the organic The hydrogen atoms in ammonia are readily displaced by mercury, forming either a primary or secondary or tertiary compound. They are all very stable combinations, and there is not a doubt but that these compounds, or others analogous to them, are formed in the system during life. This is equally true with copper, antimony, arsenic, lead, and other metals, but mercury appears to have the strongest affinity for organic matter, and to form the most stable compounds. Now, in the face of these startling facts, does not the administration of mercury indicate that he who administers it is either lamentably ignorant, or is lost to those delicate sentiments of humanity and independence which prompt the nobly organized to deeds of humanity, despite the cavillings of those whose opinions are unworthy of notice.

It was but a brief time ago that the lancet was the inseparable companion of the physician, and thousands of warm hearts ceased to beat for want of the living blood this terrible instrument let out from their channels. The reign of the lancet has ceased, and it will not be many years ere the further spread of Eclecticism will drive away the equally destructive metals, mercury, arsenic, antimony, and lead, from the entire materia medica.

Let us heartily pray for that millennial epoch in medicine, when the bills of mortality will dwindle down to one-tenth their present terrible length; when the undertaker will be necessitated to live less sumptuously, and the incompetent physician may be driven to some more useful and less dangerous employment. To Eclectic Physicians.—A valuable Suggestion.

One striking peculiarity of Eclectic and reform practitioners everywhere is, that each one, for himself, has struck out an independent plan of practice in the treatment of disease. This comes, in a great measure, from dissatisfaction at the results of old routine methods, a conscientious conviction that nearly all cases of ordinary or even extraordinary sickness should get well by a proper rational mode of treatment, and a diligent and independent inquiry concerning agents to effect those favorable results. In this way each one finds out for himself something good that perhaps is known only to himself, or some particular variety of treatment that produces an unusually large ratio of cures. Such physicians would do much good by appropriating a few hours every week in recording such modes of treatment, or the peculiarities of action of any agents, or any discovery of any new agent that he has proved highly useful, and sending such record monthly to be published in this Review. No one man knows everything, neither can he discover all that is to be discovered; and so he is glad to learn of others' discoveries, which he would otherwise never know, and should do his part in adding to the stock of general knowledge.

A medical journal teaches not by the words of the Editor merely, but by its becoming a faithful medium of communication between the active minds of the country, and is welcome and valuable in the proportion that it contains a variety of readable as well as sound and interesting matter. Every Eclectic physician is supposed to be open to suggestion, and eager to improve, by every means, his treatment of disease; and looks to his colaborers for facts which have escaped him, but which are known to the other. We, as Eclectics, want to record the results of a thorough testing of each one of the concentrated powders of the different medicinal plants, (the manufacturer being named,) by the physicians in active practice in the country or towns where they carry their own medicines, and give them singly or in Also the result of a testing of the concentrated tinctcombination. ure, and especially of those called essential tinctures, each one of them separately, so that physicians can call for them with confidence, seeing the results of a reliable testing of them in practice. which are the best will soon take the foremost rank.

If our friends will second us in these efforts we will soon have a much more reliable array of concentrated agents—those of which we can speak without doubt or uncertainty.

The Mott Memorial Library.

THE Medical Profession of New York is again in receipt of one of those peculiar and valuable donations which gives such commanding influence and position to this city.

Mrs. VALENTINE MOTT, the widow of the late distinguished Prof. Mott, has placed the profession of New York and all the friends and admirers of her late husband under lasting obligations by the establishment of this institution.

We extract the following from the Philadelphia Reporter of Oct. 20, 1866.

"What the late Professor Mutter did for Philadelphia, the widow of the late Valentine Mott has done for New York. At an expense of more than \$30,000, she has purchased, enlarged and fitted up at No. 58 Madison Avenue, between 27th and 28th streets, a building in which are deposited the medical library, and the surgical instruments of her late husband, the distinguished American Surgeon, Valentine Mott.

"On Thursday evening, the 11th inst., the building was thrown open to the friends of the Institution, and it was formally dedicated

with appropriate services.

"The building is designed by Mrs. Morr for the twofold purpose of a monument to her husband, and an institution of free instruction

to the medical students of the colleges of New York.

"The room in which the exercises were held is a fine airy little room extending the whole depth of the building, which has been extended twenty-one feet. A neat gallery has been added to the hall, with which it has a capacity for seating some 600 persons. The library of the late Dr. Mott, with the shelves prepared for donations, fills the walls of the room. Upon the platform are two fine casts of the bust of Dr. Mott, above which are scrolls bearing the words, "In Memoriam."

"The following are the trustees of the Mott Memorial Library: Hon. John T. Hoffman, Mayor; Hon. Matthew T. Brennan, Comptroller; Hon. John K. Hackett, Recorder; Hon. Henry Hilton, Hon. George Opdyke, Hon. Isaac Bell, Hon. Charles K. Kirkland, Rev. Dr. Houghton, A. T. Stewart, Esq., Charles P. Leveret, Esq., Philetus H. Holt, Esq., A. B. Mott, M. D.; Austin Flint, M. D.; Wm. H. Van Buren, M. D.; Edward Vanderpoel, M. D.; Mr. L.

D. Mott.

"Board of Officers.—A. B. Mott, M. D., President; Charles P. Kirkland, Esq., Treasurer; Edward Vanderpoel, M. D., Secretary.

"The inaugural ceremonies were presided over by Dr. Alexander B. Mott. The Rev. Dr. Houghton opened the exercises with prayer, after which the Rev. Dr. Chapin addressed the audience.

"Addresses were also made by Dr. Elliot and Mr. Charles P. Kirkland."

The Editor closes his remarks as follows:

"We trust that the medical profession of Philadelphia and New York will foster these institutions, and that they will rapidly grow, and be able to command all the means necessary to carry out to the fullest extent the intentions of their benevolent and considerate founders."

The gentlemen who have been selected as the custodians of this Institution are in every way well worthy and capable of so important a position, and if they co-operate with the medical friends of Dr. Morr, they will greatly increase the institution by securing large donations especially to the library.

This is as it should be, and the Medical Profession should ever revere and perpetuate the justly honored name of VALENTINE MOTT.

Prof. Morr was born at Glen Cove, Long Island, Aug. 20th, 1785, and died April 26th, 1865.

A New Book.

THE Eclectic Medical Practice of Medicine, by Robert Newton, M. D., is now being published in this city; about four hundred pages have already been completed, and it is passing through the press rapidly.

Every possible care is being taken to have this work up to the times. The work will be furnished to subscribers at Six Dollars a copy. Any one wishing the work can send on their orders, which will be attended to as soon as the book is complete.

What is thought of the Eclectic Treatment of Cholera, in Europe.

"Saunders' News Letter and Daily Advertiser" of Dublin, Ireland, contains the article written by O. E. Newton, M. D., of Cincinnati, on "Cholera and its Treatment." It was published in the Cincinnati "Daily and Weekly Times," also in this Review. It has been extensively copied by the press—not only of this country but of Europe. The suggestions contained in this article, especially those relating to the early treatment of the disease, and the importance of

every family having on hand medicines suitable for the various stages of the disease, are peculiarly valuable, and have proved of vital importance.

The Dublin Paper in which it is published, is one of the most ably edited and widely circulated in Ireland.

The Allopathic Code of Medical Ethics.

Of the thirty-three thousand physicians in the United States, there are not twelve thousand who are governed by this unreasonable and unjust regulation made by the few who regulate for the control of the many.

In this city, out of the fifteen hundred physicians there are only about seven hundred that are willing to receive the yoke that is placed upon their necks by the leaders of this medical party. These leaders are nearly all connected with Medical Colleges and Institutions which keep their names constantly and prominently before the public. In these relations they are daily advertised by the press of the land, yet if a single man outside of this "ring" should even dare to have his place of business mentioned, he would at once be attacked by the leaders of the party, who say this is contrary to the code, and cannot be tolerated.

From the various advertisements we learn that it takes eighteen medical gentlemen of this city to make a Faculty of one of the Allopathic Colleges, and also through the same advertisements we see the names of forty-one additional medical gentlemen connected with another department of this same institution.

Their advertisements are "legitimate and regular," because they fully advertise the Allopathic "regular" "ring-masters," yet if a single member of the medical profession, to keep himself from suffering for the common necessities of life, was to advertise as they do, he would be excommunicated at once by these same physicians.

State Appropriations for Charitable Purposes.

THE following is a list of the appropriations made by the last General Assembly of this State for benevolent purposes. No State in the Union makes such generous donations as New York:—

For the Orphan Asylums, homes for the friendless and other charitable institutions of like character, \$80,000—the sum to be divided in proportion to the number of persons and orphans maintained at each; to the Albany Orphan Asylum, the Albany Guardian, Society, Home for the Friendless, Sheltering Arms Association of New York, Brooklyn Orphan Asylum, Industrial School, Home for Destitute Children at Buffalo, St. Vincent's Troy and Albany Orphan Asylums, Cayuga Asylum for Orphans, Troy Male Orphan Asylum, Colored Home and Orphan Asylum of New York, Davenport Institution for Orphans at Bath, the Evangelical Dathem Home, Female Guardian and Home for the Friendless at New York, Five Points House of Industry, Forest Orphan Institute, French School attached to Sacred Heart, Hebrew Benevolent Society, Home for Seamen's Children of Richmond County, and the following charitable associations and institutions in New York City—Juvenile Guardian Society, New York Orphan Asylum, Nursery and Child's Hospital, Protestant Episcopal Orphan Asylum, Protestant Orphan Asylum, Roman Catholic Orphan Asylum of Brooklyn and New York, Protection of Destitute Roman Catholic Children, St. Joseph's Orphan Asylum; to the Juvenile Guardian Society of New York, \$1,000; to St. Mary's and St. Bridget's Church, for the maintenance of schools, \$1,000 each; for the hospitals of the State, except those in the City of New York, to be divided equally among them, in proportion to number of persons maintained, \$55,000; to the New York Ophthalmic Hospital, \$1,000; Eye and Ear Infirmary, \$5,000; Women's Infirmary at Washington Heights, \$2,000; Cascadilla Place Infirmary, \$2,000, and to be divided among the several dispensaries of the State, \$12,000.

Interference of Nurses.

It is a fact, to which the profession should look, that nurses often destroy the lives of females who ought to recover from the effects of parturition. Cases have come under our notice where serious injury has been done to patients by the refusal of nurses to follow the direction of the accoucheur. It is a nurse's duty to abstain from all interference, and to implicitly follow the directions of the attending physician. No nurse should be employed who is known to have refused to follow the directions in every respect of the medical man in attendance.

Infantile Mortality in the City.

Until mothers learn how to manage children, death will hold high carnival among the innocents. If children are indulged in every whim, and allowed to gratify every appetite—to gorge themselves with fats, and sweets, scalding hot coffee and high seasoned food—then we may expect to have them afflicted with all manner of diseases, from cholera infantum to scrofula. If mothers dress them up in an extra amount of flannel one day, and in gauze the next; if they keep them from the pure air, and let them sleep in thick feather beds; if they let them spend the best part of the night in infantile flirtation, at baby balls, and then compel them to spend a large portion of the day in a close school-room, or renew the ball scene next night, they will blight and fade like sickly flowers.

Every mother should study physiology, and thus inform herself of those conditions which are to be observed if she would keep her children healthy. She should be willing to be guided by rational advice, such as is to be found in all the works on infantile diseases, Mothers who allow unfeeling nurses to carry the children into crowded houses and parks; mingling with every stranger, and drugging them, as is the practice too often in their absence; they should not consider the death of their children in any other light than the result of a gross violation of every law, and their own duty to their children; yet many mothers who thus treat their children comfort themselves while mourning their loss by supposing the following applies to their case: "The Lord giveth and the Lord taketh away; blessed be the name of the Lord."

REVIEWS AND BIBLIOGRAPHICAL NOTICES.

Biographical Sketches of distinguished living New York Surgeons. By SAMUEL W. FRANCIS, A. M., M. D. Fellow of the New York Academy of Medicine. (Reprinted from the *Philadelphia Medical and Surgical Reporter.*)

This little work, a continuation of which is being published in the Philadelphia Medical and Surgical Reporter, entitles the author to the gratitude of all medical men, and, indeed, of all others who are interested in the personal history of some of the first medical men in this country. The only regret that we have is, that he did not tell us more of them, and that the individual sketches were of necessity cut so short. There are so

many incidents in the course of an active life engaged in professional pursuits, such as that of each one of them, that, if recorded, would enchain the attention, as well as gratify curiosity, that we hope the author will, in another and more complete work, satisfy this demand. It is a work of considerable literary merit withal, showing that the author has talent for work outside of the ordinary routine labors of the profession. He is the son of one of our best-known and distinguished physicians, and is himself personally acquainted with those whose biographies he now gives to the public.

In the work before us he begins with VALENTINE MOTT, M. D., I.L.D., whose distinguished and life-long services and eminent abilities, as a surgeon, have made for himself a world-wide reputation, as well as conferred distinguished honor on our country, and especially on this city, in which the greater portion of his life was spent. All men delight to know of

him, and all delight to honor him.

Graphic sketches are given of William H. Van Buren, Alfred C. Post, Frank H. Hamilton, John Murray Carnochan, James R. Wood, Lewis A. Sayre, Alexander B. Mott, John P. Batchelder, Alexander H. Stephens, Willard Parker, Gurdon Buck, John Swinburne, Julius Stephen Thebaud, Stephen Smith, and Alexander E. Hosack. We enjoyed its perusal, and would recommend it to those who would like to know something of the active minds in the sphere of medical science and literature. It will be a choice treat, in the hours of relaxation from the sterner duties of everyday life and practice.

The work comprises some 220 pages; is neatly gotten up, in good type, on fair paper, and strongly bound in cloth. An admirable engraving of the late Prof. Valentine Mott adorns the frontispiece, which is of itself quite an attractive feature of the work for those who have never

seen him.

NEWS AND MISCELLANY.

(Abstracts from Braithwaite's Retrospect.)

Contagious Fevers.—Fevers are due to the passage from one body to another of living particles. These living particles consist of germinal matter, and have descended by a process of degeneration from the germinal matter of the organism itself, and are therefore of animal origin. To those familiar with vital phenomena, the fact that a terrible and fatal malady may arise from the introduction into the body of a minute germ, weighing less than the one-hundred-thousandeth of a grain, will not appear incredible. (Dr. Lionel Beale.)

FEVERS, TABES MESENTERICA, GASTRIO IRRITATION, &c.—Give the hypophosphite of lime, soda, or potash. The following formula for an infant is good: B. Hypophos. sodæ, gr. vi.; hypophos. calcis, hypophos. potass., ana gr. iv.; glycerinæ, 3 ii.; aquæ 3 i. M.; forty drops three times a day in a little water. The dose to be increased according to age. (Dr. H. S. Purdon.)

Ozone as a Disinfectant.—Get a wide-necked bottle and put in half a pint of water, with a cork floating at the top; on this cork fix a bit of phosphorus; cover the bottle with another bit of cork very loosely

This apparatus may be moved from room to room, remaining till the characteristic smell of ozone is perceived. Do this night and morning. (Dr. T. Moffatt.)

Scarlet Fever.—Inunction with Hot Fat or Lard.—Once or twice in the twenty-four hours let the patient be rubbed with hot fat or lard. This checks or quells the violence of the disorder in an extraordinary manner. Death is a rare result, and dropsical symptoms are almost unknown. The pulse will sometimes fall thirty beats in three hours. (Mr. J. L. Milton.)

ZYMOTIC DISEASES.—The fermentations of poisons in the system, generating zymotic diseases, may be arrested by the alkaline sulphites, the same as vinous fermentation is arrested by sulphurous acid. Therefore in typhus, typhoid, scarlatina, small-pox, &c., give scruple doses of sulphite of soda every three or four hours. This dose may be decreased or increased according to circumstances and age. (Dr. De' Ricci.)

Chorea.—Calabar Bean.—In a case of chorea recorded, four drops of a tincture of calabar bean were given thrice daily, and gradually increased in quantity during a period of nine weeks. Complete recovery resulted. All means previously tried during the course of several months had proved useless. (Dr. J. W. Ogle.)

Delirium Tremens.—Subcutaneous Injection of Morphia.—In cerebral affections medicines called anodynes, when introduced subcutaneously, frequently act so far more effectually, and so differently from the stomachic doses of the same, as almost to warrant us in considering them as different medicines. Thus in delirium tremens, half-grain doses of morphia may be given repeatedly without effect, whilst one such dose introduced subcutaneously will frequently produce sleep. The use of the drug in this manner, moreover, is not followed by dryness of the mouth, and sickness and constipation of the bowels. (Mr. C. Hunter.)

EPILEPSY.—Ice to the Spine.—A most interesting case is related in which the patient was cured of severe epilepsy of long standing, by means of ice to the spine. He had many symptoms of spinal and cerebral irritation. Ice was applied along the whole spine during two hours, four times in each twenty-four hours, one bag being applied at bed-time, one being used during the night, and the other two during the day. He had no fit after this treatment was commenced, although previously he had three fits a day. The cure was permanent. (Dr. J. Chapman.)

Incurable and Painful Diseases.—Subcutaneous Injection of Morphia.—By means of subcutaneous injection, life in these cases is made bearable. It may for a long time prove a boon to patients suffering from incurable neuralgia, cancer, or the agony of diseased joints. One-third of a grain of morphia introduced subcutaneously every alternate day, will sometimes give all the relief that two grains given daily had previously done. (Mr. C. Hunter.)

Insomnia.—In cases of insomnia, bromide of potassium can almost always be used with advantage, to diminish the amount of blood in the brain, and to allay any excitement of the nervous system. (Dr. W. A. Hammond.)

NEURALGIA.—Hypophosphites.—Try hypophosphite of soda in doses of a drachm three times a day in beef-tea. (Dr. T. H. Jackson.)

Hypodermic Injection.—When opiates or other anodynes are injected subcutaneously for the relief of a local neuralgia, it is quite unnecessary to inject the neuralgic side; the medicine will act just as well when inserted in any other part of the body. (Mr. C. Hunter.)

SCIATICA.—Croton Oil.—Give a dose of two drops of croton oil; in many cases cessation of the pain will immediately ensue on the copious action of the medicine. (Dr. S. C. Sewell.)

Subcutaneous Injection of Atropine.—A lady had suffered from sciatica for two years, for which she had been obliged to take morphia daily. The subcutaneous injection of one-thirtieth of a grain of atropine produced its characteristic phenomena upon the system, and forthwith removed

the pain permanently. (Mr. C. Hunter.)

Danger of Subcutaneous Injections.—Be very careful not to inject into a subcutaneous vein instead of into the cellular tissue. As it may be impossible to avoid this at all times, always inject very slowly—in order that at the first sign of danger the injection may be stopped. (Prof. Nassbaum.)

TIC-DOLOUREUX.—Subcutaneous Injection of Atropine.—Inject $\frac{1}{10}$ of a grain of atropine subcutaneously, and repeat occasionally at intervals of two or three days, if necessary. It is not necessary to inject it in the region of the pain. (Mr. C. Hunter.)

HEMORRHOIDS.—An ointment of persulphate of iron (3 ss.-3 j. ad oz.) in hemorrhoids is an excellent application when they are ulcerated, or when the constitution is weakened by diarrhoea or excessive fatigue. (As-

sistant-Surgeon Cartwright.)

Internal Hemorrhoids—Clamp versus Ligature.—The danger of pyæmia from the use of the ligature for the removal of hemorrhoids has been very much overrated, and other means, such as the clamp, proposed instead. There is however, no plan more effectual or safer than the use of the ligature. Sir Benj. Brodie only saw two deaths out of 300 operations. Mr. Syme has never met with a case which terminated fatally, or threatened to do so, when the ligature simply was employed. The operation by the clamp is undoubtedly an effectual method of removing the disease, but it is in many respects inferior to that of the ligature. It is unnecessary to ligature the whole tumor, for the vessels which supply it always descend from above, just beneath the mucous membrane; the lower three-fourths may therefore be divided from the base by scissors, and the remaining fourth ligatured. When the ligatures have been tied, the bulk of the tumours may be cut away. (Mr. J. R. Lane.)

Induinal Hernia.—Radical Cure of.—The success of an operation for the radical cure of inguinal hernia does not depend so much on retention of the invaginated scrotum within the canal, as on the formation there of a quantity of exudation and cicatrix tissue. Success frequently results when the invagination has completely descended, provided the patient has not by any premature over-exertion forced down the protrusion whilst the process of cicatrization is yet incomplete. (Dr. J. Fayrer.)

Polypoid Growths in the Rectum, with Fissure.—Occasionally polypus of the rectum is associated with anal fissure, the latter being a consequence of the former. A free incision must be made through the fissure, the polypus drawn down by a vulsellum, and a ligature applied at its point of attachment. It must then be cut off just beyond the ligature. (Mr. J. R. Lane.)

LITHOTOMY.—That free division of the prostate which implies a division of the reflected portion of the pelvic fascia. This should always be left untouched, for stones of great magnitude may be removed without such free use of the knife. This is one of the principal secrets of success. (Prof. Fergusson.)

Infiltration of urine is the bugbear of modern lithotomists. I have

never seen a genuine case of it. Diffuse inflammation of cellular tissue, arising from some unhealthy state of the constitution, is often confounded with infiltration. (Prof. Fergusson.)

LITHOTRITY versus LITHOTOMY.—Lithotomy should be preferred in patients below the age of 15, as being more successful than lithotrity. Could blades be brought against small stones, so as effectually to crush them to sand, this operation might after all be found to be one more generally applicable in children than it is usually deemed. In the female, any other operation than lithotrity should be an exception to the rule. In adult males, lithotrity should be considered the rule, and lithotomy the exception. It is in many cases desirable to dilate the urethra with bougies before crushing, and their use is often advisable to relieve irritability. (Prof. Fergusson.)

Test of Inflammation in Joints.—In every important joint there is some one spot peculiar to each, tenderness on pressure in which indicates the presence of latent inflammation. These are, for the knee, a small space over the inner trochanter and inside the patella; for the elbow, the posterior part of the junction between the radius and humerus; for the wrist, the union between the scaphoid and ulna; for the ankle, a spot just outside the extensor longus tendon. For the shoulder, this choice spot of tenderness is situated at the back and external aspect, where the posterior fibres of the deltoid cross the joint; at the hip, the test place is just behind the trochanter. (Mr. R. Barwell.)

Carbuncle.—Subcutaneous Section.—The following plan of treating carbuncle has been pursued with great success for many years by Mr. French, surgeon to the St. James's Infirmary. Let a tenotomy knife be introduced through the healthy skin a little beyond the edge of the induration, the forefinger of the left hand serving as a guide upon the surface of the tumor. Let it be divided subcutaneously with a crucial incision, the skin being left uninjured. Immediate relief is obtained, and the rapidity of the recovery which follows is very striking. The knife may be entered several times, if the carbuncle is very large. (Mr. C. Heath.)

CATARACT.—There is no notable difference between the results of the upward and downward section, if equally well performed; but the downward operation is generally carried out more perfectly, in consequence of the greater rapidity and facility with which it may be executed. The operation for cataract should be performed in bed, in order that the patient may have the advantage of being in a position of the most complete muscular repose, and of being able to remain in the same position after the operation. The operation being on the right eye, the surgeon must sit behind the head of the bed. Immediately after the operation, the compress bandage must be applied. The orbit should be equally padded with picked lint, in little discs, over which a simple ascending turn of a flannel bandage is moderately tightly drawn across the eye. In a case which is running a favorable course, it is unnecessary to open the lids until four or five days after the operation. (Dr. Von. Graefe.)

ABORTION.—When the general symptoms, such as a shrunk condition of the papillæ of the breasts, a watery uterine discharge, and extreme lassitude, indicate the death of the early fœtus, it is better to give ergot at once; if this fail, the introduction of sponge-tents will be sure to produce expulsion. (Dr. C. Bell.)

Puerperal Convulsions.—Chloroform.—In an interesting case of severe puerperal convulsions attended with opisthotonos and symptoms resembling those produced by strychnine, the use of chloroform produced

marked alleviations of the symptoms. The inhalation was kept up for three hours, and the patient ultimately recovered. (Dr. J. Cuthill.)

REMOVAL OF THE PLACENTA.—When the child is born, the hand must follow the descending womb, and grasp it, so gently as not to cause pain, and yet with a moderate firmness. This pressure ought to be relaxed as little as possible during the separation of the child. The placenta will row usually be found partially extruded, and a short continuance of the pressure will effect complete expulsion. (Dr. Paterson.)

Tedious Labor.—Ergot.—When we desire to produce pains exactly like the natural labor pains, that is, not so severe as to be continuous, we ought not to employ the large doses of ergot usually given. Five grains given every quarter of an hour will produce all effects desired. (Dr. D. Dyce Brown.)

Vesico-Vaginal and Recto-Vaginal Fistulæ.—In the operation for the cure of vesico-vaginal fistula, the principal element of success is the absence of irregularity or raggedness of the wound's surface. If any such irregularity exists, primary adhesion of the edges cannot take place. To render the paring of the edges more certain and satisfactory, Mr. Bryant, of Guy's Hospital, has invented an instrument to transfix and steady the part, whilst at the same time it acts as a guide to the knife. The instrument consists of a handle, to which are adaptable six guides, three for transverse and three for vertical fistulæ. In each of these two sets there is one with three prongs, one with two, and one with only one prong. In the set for transverse fistulæ, these prongs are in the same line as the handle, whilst in that for vertical fistulæ, they are at a right angle. In both sets the prongs are set in a bar, in the same manner as the prongs of These prongs should be inserted at the edge of, but not through, the mucous membrane of the bladder, and passed between the tissues, and then brought out through the mucous membrane of the vagina. It is now easy with one sweep of the knife to remove the transfixed portion The lower margin must then be treated in the same manner as the upper, and the raw surfaces be brought together by wire sutures. (Mr. T. Bryant.)

Connecticut Reform Medical Association.—The Semi-annual meeting of this Association was held at Meriden, Conn., on the 20th of Nov., 1866. The meeting was largely attended. Professors Wm. H. Hadley and Robert S. Newton, of the New York Eclectic Medical College, were present. A new Constitution and By-Laws was adopted. A committee was appointed to petition the Legislature of the State to change the name of the Association from the "Medical Reform" to the "Eclectic Medical Association."

The Legislature of Connecticut at its last session, made a donation of ten thousand dollars to the Eclectic and Homœopathic Physicians of that State, to aid in building a State Hospital.

THE VERMONT STATE ECLECTIC MEDICAL SOCIETY held its first semiannual meeting at Montpelier, October 25, 1866. The meeting was called to order by the President, A. G. Brush, M. D., of Fairfax; the exercises were opened by prayer by Rev. Dr. Goodrich, of Philadelphia.

The reports of last meeting were read by the Secretary, G. A. Bag-

ley, M. D., of Chelsea, after some other preliminary business.

Several members of both the Eclectic and Allopathic profession pres-

sented themselves for membership. After appearing before the censors and passing a successful examination they were duly elected as members to the Society.

Delegates from other State Societies were present, and participated in the exercises, also eminent members of the Eclectic medical profession

were present from England and other foreign countries.

Some very interesting essays were read by the members of the

Society.

The attendance at the meeting was the largest of any Medical Association ever held in Vermont. After reports from various Medical Colleges and Societies, the meeting adjourned until the next annual meeting to be held at Montpelier the first Wednesday in June, 1867.

G. A. BAGLEY, M. D., Recording Secretary.

(This Society was incorporated by the Legislature of Vermont on the 8th day of November, 1836.—Ed.)

MISS GARRETT, L. S. A.

A dispensary has been opened for diseases of women and children, which is to be placed under the active medical superintendence of Miss Garrett. In the course of the proceedings addresses were delivered by Mr. Russell Gurney and Dr. Billing. So far as they are reported in the brief accounts which have come under our observation, we may express our concurrence in the views expressed. Miss Garrett has surmounted the great difficulties which surround the attainment of a complete medical education for women with singular energy and perseverance, at great cost, and after long years of arduous labor. She passed an excellent examination at the only board which could or would examine her, and she is as well entitled to practise as any one in the kingdom. The position which she has taken up is entirely exceptional, and corresponds with that which we assigned to her as of necessity. She has settled in a great centre of population, and aspires to a special practice amongst women and children. This we believe to be the only condition under which females can successfully practise medicine. It is one which will always limit their number, for only a few people are fitted for such a position; and the competition which they must undergo in practising a specialty amongst large populations is of a severe kind. There is only room for a few practitioners, and those of the highest qualifications. In this exceptional career Miss Garrett is a pioneer, and is entitled to great credit for her earnestness and energy. How many will or can successfully follow her example, or what would be the likely result of their endeavor to do so, we refrain from prophesying. But we recognize in her efforts a legitimate desire to enlarge the sphere of female usefulness, to add to their means of selfsupport, to cultivate their mental powers, and to secure for them opportunities of achieving independence, and, perhaps, intellectual distinction —objects in which we heartily sympathize.

SCIENTIFIC MARTYRDOM.

THE most serious lesson to be deduced from the very painful and most lamentable catastrophe which has resulted from Mr. Toynbee's experiments upon himself, is the great danger of such individual self-sacrifice. It is not the first time that eminent members of our profession have, even lately, jeopardized their lives by trying experiments upon themselves

with dangerous and poisonous substances, of which the doses and effects had not previously been sufficiently ascertained by experiment upon the brute kingdom. Dr. Christison was very near killing himself in testing the effect of the recently introduced Calabar bean upon his own organism, and rather carelessly beginning with a large dose of the powdered bean. He was paralyzed and incapable of articulation, helpless, although conscious, and was as nearly face to face with death as a man well can be and yet escape its jaws. Sir James Simpson nearly fell a victim to his experiments with anæsthetics. There is something heroic and grand in such a death as that of Mr. Toynbee. He is truly a martyr to his earnestness of purpose and generous zeal for the advancement of a beneficent art. No soldier in the line of battle, no saint steadfast in theological fidelity, ever lost his life in a purer or nobler cause. But heroism which involves such a sacrifice is only perfectly sanctified by a proved necessity; and although some risk must always be run by the original investigators who prove the effect of untried agents upon themselves, yet a risk so great as this might have been avoided; and in grieving over the fate of Mr. Toynbee, in exalting his self-sacrifice and his earnestness of purpose, we cannot omit to deduce from his sad though noble fate a caution which other investigators will hardly fail to take to heart.

Horseflesh, for the future, under certain regulations, is to be permitted for sale to the Parisian eating-house keepers. They must publicly notify their use of the viande de cheval. Special slaughter-houses are to be appointed, and diseased horses are forbidden by the ordinance. A veterinary inspector must attend at killing times, and the morceaux are to have affixed to them a stamp.

ANTIDOTES FOR STRYCHNIA.—Prof. R. Bellini, after conducting a long series of experiments on poisoning by strychnia and its salts, arrives at the conclusion that the best antidotes are tannic acid and tannin, chlorine, and the tinctures of iodine and bromine. These, he maintains, do not act chemically on the poison, but only through the astringent effects produced by the acid on the mucous membrane of the stomach.

GEUM VIRGINIANUM IN DYSENTERY.—Dr. W. A. Gibson, of St. Louis, in a communication to the St. Louis Medical Reporter, thus speaks of the virtues of this plant: "The root is astringent and slightly bitter, very much resembling in taste the blackberry root. I have been using a decoction of the root and plant in dysentery for more than ten years, and I think it worthy of a place in our dispensatory. I require my patients to drink freely of the tea thus made, using it in lieu of water, which I always forbid if cold. I never, in my experience (which has been large in this disease), knew a patient with dysentery to take a large draught of cold water who did not desire to go to stool immediately. While practising in the country, my attention was first called to the virtues of this plant by the farmers. Many of the country people, appreciating its value, entirely ignore the idea of calling in a physician in a case of dysentery, but rely entirely on this remedy, and candor compels me to say that I believe they have oftener gained than lost by this course. I have seen many bad cases of dysentery successfully treated with this remedy alone."

MEDICAL ATTAINMENTS versus Social Talent.—Young physicians often dream that by extending the circle of their private acquaintances they thus afford themselves the best chance of extending the circle of their private patients. No view could be more chimerical, no error more fatal. No man will in any case of doubt or danger intrust to your professional care

the guardianship of his own life, or the lives of those dear to him, merely because he is on terms of intimacy with you. Make yourselves known, but let it be for your professional acquirements. You must be respected not merely in your character of a social friend, but in your calling as a physician. The accomplishments which may render you acceptable in the parlor are not always those which would make your visits longed for and valued in the chamber of sickness.—Prof. J. L. Crawcour's Valedictory Address to Grad. Class of N. O. School of Med., Session 1865-6.

THE CHOLERA, in its first visitation of the civilized world, broke out in the following places at the dates annexed: at Moscow (Russia), Sept. 28, 1830; Sunderland (England), Oct. 28, 1832; Quebec (America), June 8, 1832; New York, June, 28, 1832; Philadelphia, July 30, 1832; Louisville, Sept. 18, 1832; Cincinnati, Sept. 30, 1832; Nashville, Dec. 18, 1832. In Cincinnati the cholera had ceased almost entirely on the first of December, and there was none of it (unless, perhaps, two or three cases) during the winter of 1832-3. In April or May next, it again broke out, and prevailed in Cincinnati with considerable activity during the summer. In the winter it was again silenced; but in the summer of 1834, again broke out; but in the latter part of the season was absent entirely; when, on a certain day in October, it again burst out in a large number of cases in one night, after which it entirely disappeared.

OBITUARY.

THE death of Dr. R. W. GIBBES, of Columbia, S. C., is announced as having taken place in that city on the 15th inst. Dr. Gibbes was born in Columbia on the 8th of July, 1809, and graduated from South Carolina College in 1827. He studied medicine, married a daughter of James S. Quignard, and settled in his native city, where he lived a life of usefulness for nearly forty years. He was twice Mayor: and at one time acted as assistant professor of chemistry at his own alma mater with such success that he was offered a professorship, which he declined. His tastes and habits were literary and scientific, and he contributed largely to the medical and scientific journals of the country. His name is honorably mentioned by Humboldt in his "Kosmos," and by Audubon in his Ornithology. The Smithsonian Institute tendered him the publication of his plates on paleontology and fossil remains at the cost of the Institute. He was also the author and compiler of several volumes of the Documentary History of South Carolina. He was eminently public-spirited; and to escape heavy loss, it became necessary for him to become the publisher of The Columbia South Carolinian, which he edited for several years. He lost severely by the burning of Columbia—his fine mansion, with its valuable collection of paintings, fossil remains, and geological specimens, falling a prey to the flames. He leaves a numerous family of sons, daughters, and grandchildren.

Dr. Daniel Brainard, of Chicago, a distinguished surgeon, and Professor in the Rush Medical College of that city, died of cholera, on Wednesday, the 10th inst. He had but recently returned from a prolonged absence in Europe.

Dr. Brainard had long occupied a prominent position in his profession, having for many years been a leading teacher of medicine in Chicago, a surgeon of considerable ability, and for some time editor of the Chicago Medical Journal. The lectures in the Rush Medical College were suspended a week, in consequence of his death.

AMERICAN

ECLECTIC MEDICAL REVIEW;

A Monthly Record of Medicine

AND

THE COLLATERAL SCIENCES.

Vol. II.

JANUARY, 1867.

No. 8.

ORIGINAL COMMUNICATIONS.

The Progress of New Medicine.

BY PROF. J. MILTON SANDERS, M.D., LL.D.

Professor of Organic and Physiological Chemistry in the Eclectic Medical College of the City of New York.

Some deference is due to that which the lapse of time has rendered venerable; but a gem dug from a modern, is equally valuable with one that is taken from an ancient mine.

How insignificant is the gain to science, even in the case of men of the finest intellects, when they renounce the aid of chemical and physical knowledge.

LIEBIG.

All those inquiries which are recondite, and require the vivida vis animi forcibly enough to trace their relations from the concrete or special to the abstract or generalized, call so strongly upon our inertia, that few persons are willing to yield to this draft upon their industry. In the more delightful field of experimental science the laboring chemists have brought forth facts rich, rare, and really multitudinous; but they are the separate links of a chain whose fragments needs must be put together, ere we can expect to trace its meanderings through nature, and to derive from it that charming enjoyment which the knowledge of generalized truths can only impart to us. To the chemical philosopher belongs the task of methodizing a great variety of phenomena, relating principally to the synthesis and the decomposition of substances.

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There is an intimate relationship existing among many bodies whose physical qualities are entirely dissimilar, presenting in no quantitative difference, a wide and well-measured qualitative one. These isomeric substances are rapidly accumulating, but they do not present such a formidable aspect as they formerly did, ere we had gained such a clear insight into the rational formulæ of compounds. Our future Materia Medica will be rich in these combinations, and it behooves the physician to study thoroughly their rational formulæ, if he would be capable of comprehending their therapeutic qualities.

The vegetable world has presented us with a great variety of alkaloids, and whose medicinal qualities are of the great-Only a mejety of these lieve yet been discovered. est value. The vast flora which surrounds us will furnish work for the chemist for years, MA Ye Simble from their crypts the various medicinal principles they contain. But in the meantime the discoveries in organic chemistry are evolving every day substances resembling the active principles of plants, and in some instances almost isomeric with them. these latter principles will prove of the greatest value in medicine, there is not a doubt. If the rational formulæ of two substances, one eliminated from a plant, and the other from the alembic of the chemist, be the same, the therapeutic effect will undoubtedly be similar. If their composition be slightly dissimilar, a corresponding dissimilarity of medicinal effect may be expected, but the advantage may be in favor of the artificial preparation. Or in other words, we wish to be understood as meaning that artificial preparations are none inferior in therapeutic value to the natural substances similarly constituted, only so far as their molecular condition may disagree. It does not require that the groups of atoms comprising an organic alkaloid, shall necessarily pass through a vegetable organism ere it shall have acquired medicinal properties. There is contained in their complex molecule no occult property imparted by the vitality of the vegetable cell; but simply the peculiar grouping of the four atoms of carbon, nitrogen, hydrogen and oxygen,

wholly determines its value upon the system as a curative agent. Hence the great value of the new alkaloidal bases which are being daily discovered by the chemist. Their constitution is analagous to the natural ones; while their preparation is devoid of those interfering substances whose presence causes failures, and involves the exercise of so much skill and patience. While, therefore, we do not wish to underrate the natural remedies, we are desirous that the artificial ones shall be recognized equal to their deserts.

The preparation of the artificial bases no doubt implicates the same play of chemical affinities that nature involves in the formation of the natural ones. Ammonia and ammonium are the substances which furnish the nitrogen, and which likewise furnish the displaceable hydrogen. Ammonia is therefore the type of these compounds, and it is from its hydrogen, or that of water, that these proximate principles derive all of that element. It is through the readiness with which the hydrogen in ammonia is displaced that these complex compounds are grouped: and this may be the cause of their formation, both naturally and artificially.

The complexity of the composition of these substances is due therefore to the number of hydrogen atoms displaced. If all of the atoms of hydrogen in ammonia, or ammonium, or in several molecules of these substances, be displaced by complex radicals, the composition of the compound must be correspondingly complicated. It has been only lately that the chemist has been enabled to build up, or to form compounds of greater complication from those less so. These discoveries have emboldened the chemist, and his aspirations are correspondingly elevated.

We will adduce a peculiar substance derived from the action of sulphuric acid upon bran. It is an oily substance and volatile. If this oil (Furfurole) is acted upon by ammonia, a crystalline compound is produced which is termed Furfurolamide. Its formula is C₁₅NH₆O₄. This equation will represent the reaction:

This Furfurine is a powerful base, and will even displace ammonia. It is very caustic, and forms beautiful salts with the acids. We adduce this substance for the purpose of comparing its composition with the natural alkaloids; and likewise as an instance of the building up of a complex substance from that which is less so. The nitrate of Furfurine is intensely bitter, and is possessed of febrifuge properties fully equalling those of quinine. The composition of Furfurine very nearly approaches to several of the natural alkaloids, and its salts have the medicinal effect of the salts of those substances.

The discovery that to the nitryl bases another compound radical may be combined, thus not displacing a fourth hydrogen atom in ammonia (as the latter contains it not) but the fourth atom in ammonium, has led to the production of a series of bases that very closely approach the natural ones. These bases may not have the exact therapeutic properties of the latter, but they may not only prove very dissimilar in their action upon the system, but more valuable. Now unlike the bases derived from the displacement of the hydrogen in ammonia by the compound radicals, those derived from ammonium are very stable. These latter bases therefore contain oxygen, which assimilates them to many of the natural alkaloids. As these bases are of the greatest moment to the physician at present, we will give a few samples of their constitution:

$$Ethyl \begin{cases} C_4H_5 \\ C_4H_5 \\ C_4H_5 \\ C_4H_4 \end{cases} N \quad \textit{Tetrethylium}$$

The composition of this compound is therefore $C_{10}H_{20}N$, and hence is very complex. But there are others still more so. For instance:—

$$\mathbf{Amyl} \begin{cases} C_{10} \mathbf{H}_{11} \\ C_{10} \mathbf{H}_{11} \\ C_{10} \mathbf{H}_{11} \\ C_{10} \mathbf{H}_{11} \end{cases} \mathbf{N} \quad \textbf{Tetramylium}.$$

The composition of this compound being C40H44N.

The above are only adduced as illustrations of the manner in which these complex compounds are built up. They are formed upon the type ammonium, or the oxide of this compound metal, by the substitution of the atoms of its hydrogen by compound radicals, as the above formulæ illustrate. In the examples just given, the hydrogen atoms are all displaced by the same compound radical, but the substance may be more complex still, by the displacement of each hydrogen atom by a different radical. For instance, the very complex compound, involving the equally formidable and complex name methylethylamylophenylium, is thus formed:—

$$\left.\begin{array}{l} \text{Methyl...}C_2H_3\\ \text{Ethyl....}C_4H_5\\ \text{Amyl....}C_{10}H_{11}\\ \text{Phenyl...}C_6H_7 \end{array}\right\}N$$

where the hydrogen atoms of ammonium are necessarily displaced by the compound radicals Methyl, Ethyl, Amyl and Phenyl, forming a compound containing twenty-two atoms of carbon, twenty-six atoms of hydrogen, and one atom of nitrogen.

It should be recollected, that so far, the chemist has only succeeded in forming a series of bases, built by the substitution of the above four radicals for the hydrogen in Ammonium. There is no doubt but that in time other radicals will be discovered, and that other series of complex substances will be built up, containing these new radicals.

The prospect before us is therefore boundless. Fields rich in grand discovery are spread out in the future, and it only requires application, controlled by the proper guidance of science, to render our future researches of incalculable advantage.

It was but a brief time ago that chemistry was a mere mass of disconnected facts, collected together without method or generalization. Each fact was, it is true, a gem worth the preserving, but still of little value compared to its intrinsic worth when set in its true place in that priceless whole which comprises a generalized series of phenomena. These disjecta membra have been of late thoroughly studied by

able intellects. Their true places in the series of coördinated phenomena have been ascertained, and hence a greater importance given to them in their connected form. Mere postulates, likewise, have yielded to well-ascertained truths; and hypothesis and wild theory, after having been subjected to the test of rigid research, have been swept away among the rubbish of the past.

This is the present state of chemical science. Deep, sagacious and well-trained intellects have taken the old science in their possession. Its processes have been methodized its potential theories have been verified, or, unsusceptible of standing the rigid test of philosophical scrutiny, have yielded to others more in conformity with true scientific induction. In this purifying process, some cherished theories have been violated, thereby discomposing the rhapsodies of some elderly savants of fossilated ideas. With mutterings about innovations, and complainings of the restlessness of young chemistry, those venerable philosophers have stepped aside, and given place to severe, vigorous and intellectual conceptions — and now the great science of chemistry is progressing rapidly onward to those new fields of inductive research, where its true destiny will be fully recognized by the astute minds that are destined to adorn the future.

It is in the fields of medicine that future research will exhibit its greatest glory. As the true rival of nature herself, the chemist will produce innumerable substances of very complex composition; and as their constitution will imply, they will be possessed of powerful effects upon the system. As quinine acts to remove febrile effects, so will some of these substances, with equal potency and certainty, remove other forms of disease that have before resisted all the remedies administered for their cure. Let us not be accused of undue enthusiasm, for we merely assert these things as truths soon to come before the world. Science has now reached that stage of advancement, when our prophetic language must soon be realized. We frequently observe that as science progresses, it reaches certain stages, where facts of startling import are ripe and must have vent. Simultane-

ously, and in various countries, these facts are brought to light, for their place in the chain of events has been reached, and their birth is a necessary corollary in the progress of science. As the science of chemistry has strode grandly along, its progress has at length necessitated that its greatest destiny should be revealed. To the Arts it has presented secrets rich and rare, but to Medicine it has preserved a reticence that is in singular contrast to its communicability to the former. But the time has arrived when the more recondite efforts necessary to produce the required facts for medicine, are about being made. A new Materia Medica will soon be created, partly derived from the vegetable world, but mostly from the alembic of the chemist. In the inscrutable recesses of the laboratory, there will be born a remedial potency which is destined to regenerate medicine; and then the contention for supremacy will be between the stills and retorts of the laboratory, and the cells of the living plant. And that the former will in the end win the prize, is strongly supported by the rapid progress of science.

Then let us have hope, for the effete remains of Old Medcine are being regenerated, and like the volatile matter of putrefaction, its debris is destined to build up new forms, that, in the guise of New Medicine, are destined to play the most important part in the great task of medical progress.

NEW YORK, December, 1866.

On the Anatomy, and some of the Surgical Diseases of the Urethra.

BY EDWIN FREEMAN, M. D.,

Professor of Anatomy in the Eclectic Medical College of the City of New York.

Diseases of the prostatic urethra are various and quite numerous, and owe their origin mostly to extension to it from adjacent portions of the urethra, but partly to diseased conditions of the dense glandular structure surrounding it.

Inflammation, either acute or chronic, may result from an extension backwards of gonorrheal inflammation from the extremity of the urethra, or from preëxisting stricture of that portion of the urethra lying in front of it, leading to the production of inflammation and disorganization of all the parts posterior to the stricture. Strong injections, cauterizations, mechanical injury, either by the catheter or otherwise, calculi of the bladder, indulgence in venereal excesses, cold, taken by sitting long on the cold damp ground, inflammation of the bladder, &c., are causes that may produce inflammation of the prostatic urethra. When it commences in the urethra, it usually extends to the glandular structure, and when the latter is the first involved, the urethra seldom es-Chronic inflammation may be the sequel of the acute, or it may be induced in persons of a low grade of vitality, and is more liable to be simple and uncomplicated with that of any other parts of the canal than the acute form.

The morbid appearances presented in the acute disease, are, at first a deeper red tint of the surface, and then, as the inflammatory action continues, the mucous membrane becomes thickened and velvety; or has patches of organized lymph adhering to its surface. Sometimes it becomes ulcerated or gangrenous in patches, which appear as the openings of abscesses in the prostate gland, the result of inflammation of that structure.

In chronic inflammation, the prostatic urethra is often expanded, the mucous membrane thin, and the mouths of the prostatic ducts dilated, where there is a stricture in front; but it may be thickened and coated with organized lymph, appearing opaque and rough, when there is no stricture. The gland itself may be thickened, and appear a dull ashy gray or slaty hue, instead of the deep red of acute inflammation, showing a long, persistent, unhealthy action.

The symptoms of the acute form are, pain and uneasiness apparently at the neck of the bladder, with a disposition to pass water more frequently than is natural, and an increase of the pain during the act, especially as the last is passing.

The stream is small, and the pain so severe as to sometimes cause a complete stoppage from a spasm of 'the muscles of the part. There is much straining, and perhaps a few drops of urine will pass, from the spasm slightly relaxing. If the gland be involved, it is swollen, tender, throbbing, and can be felt by the finger in the anus, in front of the bowel. There is pain in defecation and tenderness of the perineum, and if it terminates in abscess, there will be much throbbing, pain in the back and loins, running down the thighs and in the glans penis, and frequent desire to go to stool. catheter be introduced, it will excite intense pain in the inflamed locality. The symptoms of uncomplicated chronic inflammation of the prostatic urethra are not so strongly There is a little undue frequency in making water, no pain in micturition until the last few drops are passing, and then slight pain, produced by squeezing the tender mucous membrane in the act of closure of this part of the canal. Passing of the catheter gives more than usual pain, when it reaches the prostate gland. There will often be a passage of muco-purulent matter and masses of epithelium from the urethra, either with the first urine voided, or like a gleety discharge, especially if the prostate gland be involved. In the latter condition there are local pains, tenderness of the perineum, and of the prostate itself, on rectal examination. quently there is chronic enlargement of the gland, resulting from this inflammation, which may be diagnosed from hypertrophy, by its being the result of inflammation, and by its occurring in the early or middle periods of life. times the patient has little or no sexual desire, and he may be the subject of frequent involuntary nocturnal emissions, which are generally not seminal, but the product of the increased excitability of the prostate gland.

TREATMENT:—In the acute disease the lower bowel should be thoroughly emptied by enema; and a warm sitting bath, with accompanying hot foot bath of from ten to fifteen minutes, should be administered, to be repeated as often as seems indicated. The patient then should be wrapped up in bed and thorough diaphoresis and relaxation effected. It is

sometimes useful to give Beach's anti-bilious physic combined with the lobelia powder, a quantity of tea made from it, and given hot and in broken doses, until the system is relaxed, the patient sweating, and there is a disposition to stool. quantity of a solution of extract of opium with starch water, thrown into the bowel, will often quiet the pain and uneasiness. The irritating qualities of the urine may be suppressed by tea of the Altha Off. or Ulmus Fulv. with Uva Ursi, or Buchu, and free doses of Acetate of potassa, or Liquor potassæ, to neutralize the acidity of the urine. Full doses of Gelseminum may be given for its relaxing and anti-inflammatory effect, or it may be given in combination with small doses of Aconite and Belladonna or Hyosciamus. The diaphoretic powders of the Eclectic Dispensatory, in full doses every three or four hours, will keep up the diaphoresis well, and keep the patient comparatively quiet. In addition to the hip baths a large hot poultice of hops may be applied to the perineum, after the patient is put to bed, and a strong sinapism to the back and hypo-gastric region, also to the inner sides of the thighs. The patient must be kept quiet for some time after all the active symptoms are subdued, or he will suffer a relapse.

In the chronic form of this disease, the vigor of the system must be supported by the use of tonics and generous diet not actively stimulating. Iron and Quinine with extract of Nux Vomica make a good pill. The prostatic urethra should be washed by a solution of the nitrate of silver of the strength of from two to twenty grains to the ounce of pure water. This is especially beneficial if there be noctural emissions. The solution may be introduced by means of a catheter, perforated at the extremity and containing a piston, by means of which the fluid can be forced into the urethra as soon as the catheter shall have arrived there. The pain may be temporarily increased by that operation for even a day or more, and blood may pass, but then those effects usually subside with a decided relief of the old symptoms, especially if in the meantime the patient drink freely of a tea of the Altha, Agrimonia, or Uva Ursi. The operation may or may not be repeated, according to the indications, but at any rate not for

three or four weeks. Counter irritation to the perineum with croton oil or the cantharides collodion, is very useful; or the irritating plaster (Ec. Disp.), applied there or to the inner sides of the thighs, affords powerful counter irritation, without the danger of the irritating effect from absorption of the Canthar-When the trouble is a sequel of acute inflammation, and there is tenderness and enlargement of the prostate gland: in order to reduce the enlargement, it is well to resort to the internal administration of the Iodide or Bromide of potassium. Either of them may be given, as it agrees best with the stomach, and it may be combined with the acetate or bicarbonate of potash, if there be marked acidity of the urine, or with any of the vegetable alteratives, such as syr. stillingiæ comp., tinc. corydalis comp., Phytolaccin, Macrotin, &c., alone, or in pill with Iodine. The iodine ointment introduced upon cotton into the rectum, or iodine painted on the perineum will assist materially in reducing the induration and enlargement.

If there be complete retention of urine from this cause, which cannot be overcome by the means referred to, a silver catheter must be carefully introduced, keeping the extremity of the catheter well against the upper wall of the urethra, as it courses under the arch of the pubes; so that it will enter the prostatic urethra with as little difficulty as possible.

Abstesses may form in the prostate gland, and burrowing around the urethra, may completely separate it from other structures, and at last opening into the canal, be discharged; or they may possibly open simultaneously also into the rectum, and urethro-rectal fistulæ be established. Those openings may close up spontaneously, or they may remain open, and the urine passing out of the urethra, may cause an increased formation of matter, which may escape in the usual manner, or find another outlet on the surface of the perineum. The treatment should be mainly supporting treatment; and with the exception of means to subdue inflammatory conditions and the occasional washing of that portion, or the urethra with a weak solution of nitrate of silver, or the sesquicarbonate of potassa, little interference should be made, but allow time for nature to effect, a resolution of the case,

by a cure of the abscess. Where catheterization is deemed necessary, it of course must be used, being careful that it does not enter the abscess, instead of the bladder, through the urethral opening. If perineal incision holds out some chance of cure, where other means fail, it should be performed.

Ulceration of the urethral mucous membrane of the prostate may occur from the pressure of a catheter where it has remained in the bladder for a too long time; also from the softening of a tubercle situated in the membrane; or the sprouting of a malignant growth; or impaction of a calculus, either entire or in form of a fragment. It may also occur from urinary retention from stricture dilating the canal, and thinning the membrane, which finally ulcerates. In this last case the cure of the stricture allows the ulceration to heal. In the former constitutional and local treatment for chronic inflammation such as has already been referred to will generally be all that is sufficient to effect a cure, except in malignant ulceration, in which case a caustic application should be made by means of Lallemand's instrument for cauterizing the urethra.

No. 98 E. 17th st., New York.

[To be continued.]

On the Identity or Plurality of Syphilitic Poisons.

BY JAMES A. HENSHALL, M. D.

An interesting discussion has lately arisen in Europe, both in Great Britain and on the Continent, in regard to the exact nature of the Syphilitic poison, or poisons. The disputants are divided into two classes, known as unicists and dualists.

The unicists are those who believe in only one syphilitic virus, which they claim is specific in its effects, and capable of producing any, or all of the varieties of chance, and their respective sequelæ.

The dualists, on the other hand, are those who advocate the theory of two totally distinct and unique syphilitic poisons,

each producing effects characteristic of, and peculiar to itself; the one invariably producing soft chancre the other as infallibly propagating indurated chancre. They further claim that soft chancre is an entirely local, and comparatively harmless affection, incapable of infecting the general system, or of producing secondary accidents; but that hard, callous or indurated chancre is the true syphilitic sore, and which alone is responsible for constitutional syphilis.

Before giving my opinion in regard to the above propositions, it is worthy of remark that this dualistic theory was not generally advanced and advocated, until after mercury had come into general disfavor, and had lost its prestige as a specific in syphilis. It was not until after the facts had been demonstrated and proven, that syphilis could be cured without mercury; and that mercury was not only useless, but positively injurious in the treatment of that disease; and that a long train of symptoms which had been formerly attributed to syphilis, were in reality the effects of this vaunted anti-syphilitic Samson itself;—it was not, I say, until after all this had been proven that the plurality theory came into vogue. Now, there was, evidently, some reason for this. Yes, there was a reason for it, and I will endeavor to show when, how, and why this double-headed phenomenon dualism, arose from the ashes of the mercurial phænix.

There is a remarkable coincidence, in certain peculiarities, between this question of the identity or plurality of syphilitic poisons, and the great question of change of type in inflammatory diseases,—thus we find that the unicists are, with few exceptions, non-mercurialists, and are opposed to the change of type theory; they are in fact the eclectics of Europe. They maintain that syphilis is the same disease now, that it always has been, as pneumonia is the same yesterday, to-day or to-morrow; that the revolution that has taken place in the treatment of both diseases, was occasioned—not by a change in the character of the diseases themselves—but because their former treatment had been proven, by the advance of the science of pathology, to have been erroneous. The same cause which led to the abandonment of the lancet,

tartar-emetic, and mercury in febrile and inflammatory diseases, also led to the repudiation of mercury in syphilis. As it was proven that the antiphlogistic plan of medication increased the mortality in fevers and inflammations, so has it been proven that the mercurial treatment of syphilis, not only does not cure, but really aggravates the disease, and makes bad worse—or, as the French have it, de mal en pis. The unicists accepted the situation, came out boldly, and honestly, and acknowledged the error of their former treatment, and adopted the more rational views of modern science.

The dualists are, almost to a man, mercurialists, and also advocate the change of type theory, for the same reason that they defend the dual theory of syphilitic poisons. they were forced by the advance of medical science, and by public opinion to abandon their cherished antiphlogistic remedies in febrile and inflammatory diseases, and to adopt a plan of treatment more in accordance with the present knowledge of pathology, they were, of a necessity, compelled to furnish some pretext to explain away their apparent inconsistency; not being honest enough to acknowledge their former error, this they attempted to do, by inventing the change of type dogma, by which they vainly strove to prove that diseases had changed from a former sthenic type, to a present asthenic one; and that in the former case the antiphlogistic treatment was the proper one, but inasmuch as the type of disease had changed, they claimed, they accordingly had changed their treatment. So, also, when it was demonstrated that mercury was not a specific in syphilis, but that it was absolutely injurious, and the liberal portion of the profession had acknowledged the truth of this, and had repudiated its use,—then do we find these dualistic heroes in the breach, still battling for error; and when at last they are obliged either to conform to the new order of things, or be crushed beneath the toppling walls of error and untruth, they look around, as in the former instance, to discover some hole to get out at; and they are fortunate enough to find the loop-hole of duality of syphilitic poisons.

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It had long been observed that soft chancre was more easily managed, and that secondary accidents happened less frequently, or in a milder form, than in the case of indurated chancre—and the reason for this was supposed to depend upon some peculiar idiosyncrasy existing in the individual affected; here then was the straw so eagerly grasped by the dualists to keep themselves afloat. The soft chancre, said they, is not syphilis—or at best a non-virulent form of it—and can be cured without the aid of mercury; in fact, said they, it seems to be contra-indicated, for it is in these cases that you witness these deleterious effects of mercury; but hard chancre is the veritable animal de facto, de jure and mercury alone can cure it. And now, though they are debarred the pleasure of mercurializing the softs-they still have the consoling reflection, and mournful satisfaction of knowing that they can double-dose the hards—and that after all

> There is but one (true) virus, And (hard) chancre is its (their) profit.

[The balance of this article is an extract from the Eclectic Clinical Medicine and Surgery, by J. A. Henshall, M. D., now in press.]

I will now endeavor to describe what I conceive to be the true theory of Syphilitic poison, as it now exists, and as it has always existed, from the days of King David, who, tradition leads us to believe, contracted the disease from the cunning Abigail, the wife of Nabal—down to the present time. By this theory can be explained and reconciled the many apparent contrarieties and inconsistencies exhibited by this disease, and which have always been deemed inexplicable.

I am convinced that syphilis has been "more sinned against than sinning;" that most of the fearful and loath-some effects attributed to this disease, have been produced by the agent so universally employed for its cure—mercury. We do not read so much of the horrible effects of the disease until after the time of Paracelsus, and the introduction of his famous quack-salver; and it is but fair to presume that pre-

vious to his time, syphilis was not attended with such baneful and pernicious consequences, as have since been ascribed to it. I am certain that syphilis, cæteris paribus, produces but few symptoms of severity, and is amenable to rational treatment; and that its tendency is to its own cure, in proportion to the constitutional vigor of the individual affected.

There has always been recognized two distinct forms of chancre—soft or chancroid, and hard or indurated, or as it is often called hunterian chancre; the former being the typical local or non-virulent sore, and the latter the true syphilitic, or virulent chancre of the dualists. They are described as follows, by one of the most prominent and enthusiastic supporters of the plurality theory in England:

"The simple, soft, local venereal ulcer, is marked by a process of active ulceration and suppuration, attended with inflammatory phenomena. Neither the ulcer or its cicatrix presents any well-defined and strictly limited induration; it discharges a purulent secretion which readily inoculates the neighboring parts, and the ulcers are often multiple or become so. If inguinal adenitis ensues, it is confined to one gland, which tends to inflame and suppurate. The disease manifests itself two, three, four, or rarely five days after exposure to contagion.

"The indurating, infecting, or true syphilitic chancre, is characterized by the adhesive form of inflammation; it is more or less ulcerative in character, but not by any means invariably so, the specific induration being sometimes formed à froid without inflammatory phenomena. This sore is generally solitary, or if multiple, it is so from the first, the base and periphery of the lesion possessing a well-defined but variable amount of induration. The concomitant adenitis is generally symmetrical, consisting of a chain of enlarged indurated glands, or indurated lymphatic vessels, and without any active inflammatory or suppurative action in them. The lesion appears from between five days to five weeks after contagion."

The above are very faithful descriptions of the two forms of chancre mentioned, and if syphilitic ulcers invariably pre-

sented either one or the other of the above-described series of phenomena, then the theory of the duality of syphilitic poisons would seem to possess some degree of plausibility; but unfortunately for the advocates of this theory, chancres present all shades of differences and varieties of appearances, from one to the other extreme of softness or hardness; and they themselves confess, but cannot reconcile the fact that with the more anomalous, mixed, and non-conformable cases, it is impossible to determine where one ends, or the other begins.

Now there is but one syphilitic virus, the same now, as it always has been, and ever will be, immutable and unchangeable; this virus will produce chancre (and now—so far as its identity or plurality is concerned—we are done with the virus). The nature, appearance, progress, and effect of that chancre will depend upon the constitutional condition of the person affected, and not upon the source of infection—the seed being sown, the development of the plant will depend upon the nature of the soil, not upon the seed sown.

Chancre, per se, is a strictly local disease, and can be radically and effectually destroyed by timely attention and prompt treatment; but if not so destroyed, the system becomes infected or poisoned, sooner or later; the virulence of the infection, and the length of time required, depending upon the diathesis or dyscrasia of the individual affected.

For instance, if an individual of a vigorous, untainted constitution be exposed to syphilitic virus, the resulting chancre will exhibit all the characteristic qualities of the typical soft chancre—described above—in an eminent degree, from the very nature of the circumstances. The inherent powers of the system—vis vitæ—will of course combat this poison, and dispute its absorption into the economy; the virus will then expend its strength upon the surface, and produce the nearest approach to a healthy ulcer known to syphilography—a soft chancre; which by proper treatment can soon be converted into a healthy sore, and rapidly healed. But if the virus effects an entrance—is absorbed—it is met

by the vis medicatrix natura at the first defensible point,—
the inguinal glands,—which will endeavor to throw out the
poison at this point by suppuration, just as described above.
The healthier the organization, the greater will be the inflammation, and the more active the ulceration and suppuration.
Not only is this the case with syphilitic poison, but all other
poisons and deleterious agents will be opposed in a similar
manner by a healthy and vigorous organization.

If, on the other hand, the individual be of a well-marked strumous or scrofulous diathesis, the resulting chancre will present all the characteristics of the true hunterian ulcer, above described. The vitality of the system being impaired and diminished, and the natural resisting power of the system being feeble, we have, in consequence, the indolent, hard, and fungous ulcer peculiar to this dyscrasia; the virus will become rapidly absorbed—from the well-known activity of the absorbent glandular system in this diathesis—the inguinal glands very soon become affected, and exhibit the same conditions that inflammation of the lymphatic glands always present in scrofulous subjects, no matter what the exciting cause. The cervical lymphatic glands become involved in a remarkably short period of time—followed very soon by the mucous membranes and skin; all in turn succumb to the ravages of the poison, if unchecked in its career. Primary, consecutive, and secondary accidents follow each other with admirable regularity and unerring certainty.

As the constitution of the individual approaches one or the other of the two conditions described—so will the character and phenomena of the chancre resemble one or the other of the corresponding, so-called, typical ulcers. The healthier the patient, the softer and more tractable will be the ulcer, and the more strumous the diathesis of the individual, the more indolent, indurated and virulent the chancre.

These facts are very apparent, easily demonstrated, and will, by investigation, prove themselves. I can recall more than one instance where I have had two patients, at the same time, infected from the same source, one having soft, and the other indurated chance; the first individual being of natur-

ally a sound constitution, and the latter of a strumous habit of body. These facts being so patent, so simple, and so easily proven, it is the province of every physician to investigate them for himself. I will only add, that just in proportion as it is difficult to determine the strumous or non-strumous condition of the patient affected—just so will be the relative difficulty to determine whether the chancre be hard or soft, and this would naturally be expected under the circumstances.

MILWAUKEE, Wis., Nov. 28th, 1866.

Hereditary Influence.

BY CHAS. H. S. DAVIS, M. D.

That physical and mental qualities are transmitted from parents to offspring, has been noticed in all ages of the world, and, notwithstanding all the light which science has thrown upon the problem of hereditary transmission, we know but little more about it to-day than was known a thousand years ago. Whilst Chemistry, Geology, Natural History, Agriculture, &c., may almost be classed with the exact sciences, the study of man and the improvement of the human race remain enshrouded in Egyptian darkness. "When will the current of public opinion, or the stimulus of professional emolument, create a desire to understand the irreversible ordinances and statutes of nature, on this class of subjects, as strong as that which now carries a student of law through Fearne on Contingent Remainders?—a book which requires the same faculty for divining ideas, that Champollion had for deciphering Egyptian Hieroglyphics."* The bees build their combs now in the same way that they did a thousand years ago; man is the same to-day as he was in the days of the patriarchs—subject to the same laws, inheriting and transmitting mental, moral, and physical quali-

^{*} Horace Mann's Lectures on Education, p. 287.

ties; in fact, wherever we look, man is the same. Stripped of exterior coverings, there is in every climate a common body and a common mind; he is but "an atom of an atom world," and the generations of six thousand years, to beings of superior natures, appear like the successive tribes of insects, which, in the morning, sport on the surface, and, ere sunset, are lost in the bosom of the troubled lake.

In reading the writings of Greek and Roman authors, and of writers during the middle ages, we meet with many instances of hereditary peculiarities. Plutarch speaks of a family in Thebes, every member of which was born with the mark of a spear-head on his body; Pliny says that Selencus had an anchor on his thigh, so had his posterity; Lepidus was purblind, and so was his son; says Fernelius, "such as the temperature of the father is, such is the son's, and look what disease the father had when he begot him, his son will have after him."* So also Roger Bacon, "the son is as well inheritor of his infirmities, as of his lands; and where the complexion and constitution of the father is corrupt, there the complexion and constitution of the son must needs be corrupt, and so the corruption is derived from the father to the son.† Lemnius observes, that the affections of the Jews follow their seed, and the malice and bad condition of children are many times wholly imputed to their parents; ‡ also, "that old men beget for the most part wayward, peevish, sad, melancholy sons, and seldom marry."

Constancy in the transmission of structure and character from parent to offspring is a law of nature; but variations occur. The striking opposition of character in families has been noticed from Cain and Abel, down to the brothers Bonaparte. Hereditary physique has its analogues in hered-

^{*&}quot;Quale parentum maxime patris semen obtigerit, tales evadunt similares spermaticæque partes, quocunque etiam morbo Pater quum generat tenetur, cum semine transfert in Prolem." Fernelius Ut. arthritici Epilep., &c.

[†] Roger Bacon, Epist. de secretis artis et naturæ, c. 7.

^{† &}quot;Affectus parentum in fœtus transeunt, et puerorum malicia parentibus imputanda." Lemnius, De occult. nat. mirac., lib. 4, cap. 3.

itary tone of mind; and it would not be difficult to adduce scores of instances in which scientific, literary, or musical talents have descended through several generations. Says Dr. Gregory, "Both bodily and mental qualities are hereditary. Parents are often revived in their offspring; certainly, children are like their parents, not only as to countenance and form of body, but disposition of mind, and virtues, and vices. The Claudian race flourished a long time at Rome, active, fierce and proud; the same produced the unpitying Tiberius, a most sad tyrant; at length, after 600 years, about to cease in an outrageous Caligula, and Claudius, and Agrippina, and lastly a Nero himself."* Julius Cæsar was of a race prolific in masterly talent, and of an age adorned with the highest attainments of the intellect.

We know that Milton inherited his musical talents from his father; may he not also have inherited his blindness from his mother? Aubrey tells us that she had such weak eyes, that, before she was thirty years old, she had to wear spectacles.

Dr. Johnson not only inherited the mental characteristics of his parents, but also the scrofula. Mozart inherited the musical genius of his father.

Letitia, the mother of Napoleon, though advanced in pregnancy, left her domestic duties to accompany her husband in all the perils and fatigues of that conflict which terminated in Corsica becoming a province of France, and its inhabitants subjects of the Bourbons; eight of her children lived to find their name the terror and admiration of the world.

The strong sensuality of James the First must be ascribed to both his parents, whilst his partial idiocy and nervous trembling were, doubtless, caused by the terror which his mother experienced at the brutal murder of Rizzio.

In the Sheridan family, generation after generation have succeeded to the heritage of extraordinary talents. Byron's paternal ancestors were remarkable for their eccentricities,

^{*} Conspectus Medicinæ Theoreticæ, cap. 18, xvi.

irregular passions, and daring recklessness; and his mother was liable to ungovernable outbursts of temper and feeling. The deformity of Byron's foot and leg indicated that a nervous attack occurred during intra-uterine life, of a paralytic or spasmodic character. Bernard Tasso was a considerable poet, and his son Torquato inherited his faculties, heightened by the influence of the mother.

The two Herschels, the two Colmans, the Kemble family, the Coleridges, and, in our own country, the Beecher, Van Buren, and Adams families may be mentioned where extraordinary talents have descended from father to son—

——"puerique claris Patribus orti."*

In comparison with the above, we may ask, how is it that Pericles, who "carried the weapons of Zeus upon his tongue," produced nothing better than a Paralus and a Xanthippus? How came the infamous Lysimachus from the austere Aristides? How was the weighty intellect of Thucydides left to be represented by an idiotic Milesias, and a stupid Stephanus? Where was the great soul of Oliver Cromwell in his son Richard? Who were the inheritors of Henry IV, and Peter the Great. We read of Chaucer's son, of Dryden's sons, of the sons of Burns, of Allan Ramsay's son, of Dr. Young's son, of Campbell's son, of Moore's son, and of Shelley's son; Milton, Addison, Shakespeare, and Byron, left daughters.

One half of the most eminent persons that have ever lived in the world of science and literature have remained unmarried. "The best works," remarks Lord Bacon, "and of greatest merit for the public, have proceeded from unmarried or childless men." Among the fathers of the early Christian Church, even before the law of celibacy was introduced, almost all the most eminent were unmarried men; among these were Clement, Irenaeus, Justin Martyr, Ignatius, Polycarp, Origen, and a host of others. Butler, Cowley, Congreve,

^{*} Horace, Lib. IV, Car. VI.

Otway, Prior, Pope, Gray, Thomson, Cowper, Akenside, Shenstone, Collins, Gray, Goldsmith, and Rogers, all died unmarried. Says Walker, "History proves that marriage is essential to the well-being of human society, and that celibacy brings ruin upon states. Marriage and population increase in young and vigorous nations, both diminish in nations which are falling into decay."* Having shown that mental, moral, and physical peculiarities are transmissible, let us go back to the beginning, and the question that first arises is one that has been asked thousands of times, Shall we consider constancy, in the transmission of structure and character from parent to offspring, as a law of Nature, or as the result of mere chance? A superficial view of the subject might lead one to think that we were governed entirely by chance, instead of inexorable laws. Says a writer, "A halfpenny's worth of nitrate of silver skilfully applied, and France might have been spared many of the horrors of her last century revolutions." By a trifling loan of money from the great actor Talma to Napoleon in a time of need, the face of Europe was changed—millions of men perished—thrones were emptied—Wellington was made a duke—Moscow was burned, and France made a despotism at the present time. American liberty and thirty-one glorious States arose from a strong cup of tea made by the Bostonians in 1775. A little piece of magnetized steel led to the discovery of a new world. The erection of a saw-mill in California changed the currency of the world. The exportation of a few potatoes from America, by Sir Walter Raleigh, has saved the Irish nation several times from starvation.

"Did this man sin, or his parents, that he was born blind?" The Saviour replies to the inquiry, "Neither hath this man sinned, nor his parents: but that the works of God should be made manifest in him."

But we hold that this department of Nature, in common with all her other works, is governed by the action of certain fixed and invariable laws; that cause and effect reign uni-

^{*} Walker on Woman, p. 107.

versal, and operate in producing every great, every minute quality in every child; that disease is the result of transgression of organic laws, and is not owing to chance result, nor the inflictions of an inscrutable Providence.

"No action, whether foul or fair, Is ever done, but it leaves somewhere A record, written by fingers ghostly As a blessing or a curse."*

Says Machiavelli, "I am not ignorant that it is, and has been of old, the opinion of many people, that the affairs of the world are so governed by Fortune and Divine Providence, that man cannot by his wisdom correct them, or apply any remedy at all." †

Although the transmission of species is governed by certain inflexible laws, yet there are many variations to these laws. We have seen that the man of genius may have a blockhead for a son. In the same family we observe striking differences in stature, aspect, and disposition; children are sometimes not only unlike their parents, but they are in many particulars unlike their species. Pliny remarks "that nature is by no means regular in the procreation of the human race, so that parents rarely give birth to children that resemble themselves. Persons who are well formed have misshapen children; whilst those of deformed parents are well made. Mothers also give birth to children that sometimes resemble themselves, sometimes the father, and sometimes resemble neither one nor the other." Pliny mentions examples of six-fingered persons among the Romans: such individuals received the additional name of sedigitus or sedigi-C. Horatius had two daughters with this peculiarity.

Let us endeavour to ascertain if these variations can be accounted for, and also investigate some of the laws which govern the transmission of species. A writer in the Edinburgh Review, speaking of the community of function of the ultimate constituents of all organized beings, as far as they

^{*} Longfellow's Golden Legend, p. 93.

[†] The Prince, ch. XXV.

can be determined, says, "These constituents are microscopically minute hollow spheres of various forms, oblate, discoid, ovoid, spheroid,—containing small granular bodies termed nuclei. Such, and no other, is that primordial cell from which the perfect organism, whether it be animal or vegetable, is evolved, and within which operates that unconsciously acting principle of vitality which, from so minute and almost formless an atom of matter, works out the entire mechanism of frame in all its parts; so that, finally, beauty, fitness, and an admirable working to beneficent ends, is the result. Within the narrow walls of that hollow spheroidal atom is contained potentially the whole scheme, not only of the future physical life, but also of those instincts, faculties, and peculiarities, which are transmitted hereditarily from parent to off-spring." *

It is an exploded theory that the bodies of infants are animated by "pure spirits" created by God expressly for the occasion; we know that they resemble their parents mentally and physically. After conception, or after the impregnation of one nature with another, the woman is conscious of a nature working contrary or different from her own; perhaps she is complaining, fretful, peevish, and does not control her temper, the consequence is, the child is fretful and peevish, having the mother's disposition. Immoderate indulgence of any passion, violent exercise, frequent intoxication, sedentary life, abstruse study, suppression of periodical evacuations, tumors compressing the brain, and constitutional irritability of the lungs, all have a tendency more or less to affect the child. Haller, in his preface to the "De Genitura" of Hippocrates, states it as maintaining the intermixture of the seed of both parents; that this seed is derived from every part of them, principally from the heart, through the spinal marrow to the kidneys by the intermedium of the testes, and thence to the pudenda, by channels distinct from those that convey the urine. The semen is from both, both male and female, and whichever predominates gives rise to a corresponding

^{*} Quoted in Brodie's "Mind and Matter," p. 179.

The parts of the child are like father or sex of the fœtus. mother, proportionately to the amount of semen derived from such parts in either. Defective children are explained from pressure experienced in the uterus.* We know that children inherit both the physiology and the mentality existing in parents at the time of copulation; we know that the different secretions of the body are affected by different diseases under which the body may be suffering. Also, the emotions of the mind have more or less effect upon the secretions: a joyous and genial state of mind has the effect to increase the secretions of the liver, while grief, anger, and the like, retard them; there cannot be a seminal emission even in sleep unless there is some mental emotion. A person may sit down to the table with a strong appetite, and just before eating he hears of the death of a relative or friend, such is the sympathy between the brain and the stomach that his appetite at once leaves Thus we see there is a perfect sympathetic relation existing between every organ and part of the body, and we can easily conceive the semen at the time of copulation by means of this sympathetic relation; the magnetic fluid is fully charged with the elements and functions of both the mind and body of parents.

The magnetic theory, which at one time attracted considerable attention, is, that the characteristics of parents are transmitted to children by means of magnetism, through the instrumentality of the secretions, and their intimate relation to both body and mind. The law that governs this matter is stated as follows. "Man has a twofold organization: the one, anatomical; the other, magnetic, or vital, which are intimately interwoven throughout; the latter, by means of its affinities and natural superiority, controlling the form, texture, etc., of the former, and securing its action through the instrumentality of various magnetic connections, depots, ect., called poles, which, put in action, produce and constitute all the phenomena of life. This magnetic constitution has two great central poles: the one in the head, the other in the

^{*} Haller's Hippocrates, VI. II; p. 5. Lausanne, 1775.

chest. This magnetic nature of parentage is imparted to the germ of life, or embodied in it, only that it is yet folded up or concentrated in that great central pole in the chest where embryo life commences, and then deposited, by that function which imparts being, in the place provided for its nutrition, where also nature has stationed a full supply of maternal vitality, to feed it until it can germinate, as does the egg when subjected to incubation, or supplied by terrestial magnetism."

BALTIMORE, MD.

[To be continued.]

PERISCOPE.

Influence of Sleep on the Appetite and Reparative Powers.

If the sleep be broken, the appetite, with digestion and assimilation, is greatly impaired. Indeed, too much attention cannot be paid to this point, for from the loss of appetite patients rapidly waste, and the reparative powers of the system are greatly lessened, and thus the recovery is greatly retarded. Indeed, the loss of appetite resulting from want of sleep may completely wear out the patient, and be the chief influence causing death. It is thus of the utmost importance to secure to patients sufficient sound and refreshing sleep. This should always be accomplished, when possible, without the adminis-The ventilation of the room should be tration of medicines. carefully looked to, the diet must be carefully regulated, and regard must be paid to the amount of stimulants given. Often, sleep is prevented by these latter being administered too late in the evening; or, on the other hand, if patients be very weak, their absence may cause wakefulness, and patients previously restless not unfrequently fall into a refreshing sleep when stimulants are freely administered. All undue excitement before the usual time of sleep must be avoided. If pain prevents sleep, this must be allayed; and if the restlessness be caused by cough, this should be remedied. The cough of phthisical patients not unfrequently results from

This is then red, injected, and it may be ulcersore-throat. ated. In such cases local applications to the throat are efficient remedies; one of the best is that recommended by Dr. Edward Smith. An eighth or tenth grain of morphia, dissolved in a drachm of syrup or glycerine, should be either painted on the throat with a soft camel's hair brush; or, which is better, swallowed slowly. This application frequently allays the cough, and allows sleep. If the cough proceed from irritation in the chest, this may often be allayed by counter irritation under either or both clavicles. For this purpose either a mustard poultice, or a blister, or a strong solution of iodine, may be applied. Inhalations, moreover, often succeed when given to allay cough; iodine or creosote inhalations are often of greater service than those of simple steam. The patient should be directed to rinse out a jug with boiling water to heat the vessel, and then to pour into it a pint or a pint and a half of boiling water; into this twenty drops of the tincture of iodine, or the same quantity of creosote, should be dropped. The vessel should then be covered over with a towel, and the patient must put the mouth and nose under the towel. This inhalation should be continued for five or ten minutes. If the cough be paroxysmal and violent, a mixture of laudanum with some chloric ether and tincture of lobelia inflata may often be given with advantage.

Sleep should always be obtained if possible without the use of large doses of opium, for this medicine itself lessens the appetite, and often greatly interferes with the other functions of the body. The practitioner has to decide whether greater harm will result from want of sleep or the administration of opium. Patients exhibit great individual peculiarities in respect to the action of opium, and thus the above question can only be decided by a trial of the action of this medicine. With many patients, this causes much excitement, sometimes of a pleasant, at other times of a disagreeable kind. With many, it destroys the appetite or constipates the bowels; in such cases, the opium may inflict even more harm than the want of sleep. On the other hand, some

patients under its use fall into a refreshing sleep, and are in no other way affected by its administration. It should be the anxious endeavor of the physician to cure his patient with the smallest amount of medicine possible.—Med. Times and Gazette.

Comparative Frequency and Varieties of Hernia.

Dr. John L. Sullivan writes to the Nashville Journal of Medicine and Surgery, giving his statistics of hernia:

Number of men examined, 10,000. Number rejected on account of hernia, 455; or 45.5 per 1000.

Varieties: Femoral hernia, right,		•	•	1
" doub	ole,	•	•	1
Umbilical, .	•	•	•	6
Ventral, .	•	•	•	9
Inguinal, right,	•	•	•	234
" left,	•	•	•	173
" double,	•	•	•	31
				455

Ether Spray in Strangulated Hernia.

Dr. John Barclay reports, in the Brit. Med. Journal, a case of strangulated hernia, in which reduction was accomplished after the use of ether spray. The pain induced by the most gentle handling of the hernial tumor was so intense, that Dr. B. had to desist from taxis. Having brought with him Richardson's ether spray apparatus, thinking it might be useful in lieu of ice, it was determined to invert the patient, apply the ether spray, short of freezing the skin, then to attempt the reduction, and, if failure was the result, to operate by the knife.

The head and shoulders then being supported on the floor by some pillows, and the buttocks raised as much as possible against an inclined plane, extemporized by an inverted bedroom chair, the ether spray was directed in the usual way on the swelling, for about forty seconds, when a minute spot of skin appeared white. The spray was at once removed, and on applying the fingers of the left hand on the swelling for about two seconds, accompanied by the most trifling pressure, plump up (or rather down) went the hernia, to the great delight and satisfaction of all. The man made a first-rate recovery.

Progressive Medicine.

Dr. John Hughes Bennerr, in an address before the British Medical Association, at a recent session, made the following summary from the present stand-point of practical medicine:

- "1. That the empirical method of treating disease has reached its utmost limits, and that little further improvement is to be anticipated from it.
- "2. That the great advance which has taken place in the science of medicine has led, and is leading to various modifications in the rules of medical practice, which only lately were in general use.
- "3. That these modifications principally consist in putting more confidence in the powers of nature, having recourse more frequently to the assistance of diet and other hygienic influences, and in employing more sparingly blood-letting and other so-called heroic remedies.
- "4. That the value of many remedies in certain diseases is unquestionable, and that their judicious employment confers invaluable benefits upon mankind; but the utility of others is disputed or little known, and with regard to these a careful investigation is imperiously required.
- "5. That such investigations demand great labor, advanced knowledge, and much valuable time, and that experience has demonstrated the impossibility of carrying them out satisfactorily without funds to remunerate investigators.
- "6. That all applications of scientific treatment require the coöperation of medical men at large, and that no trustworthy results are likely to meet with general confidence in

future, unless founded on extensive data, and formularized by a correct statistic."—Edinburgh Med. Journ.

Public Health. — The Death-rate in different Cities.

Dr. Farr, presiding over the late session of the British Science Association, instituted a comparison between the leading nations of Europe, in respect to public health. Russia's death-rate is the highest, if the lecturer's statistics may be trusted, being thirty-six per thousand, while the mean lifetime is but twenty-five years, the mortality being greatest in the southern part of the empire. It would be interesting to know the comparative consumption of brandy in Russia, which is a pretty large item in the undertaker's record.

Italy's death-rate is thirty, and the population of the country is as unhealthy as that of the towns. Rome is the healthiest city on the peninsula, because of her aqueducts. The Germans do not live thirty years on an average, and die at the rate of from twenty-nine to thirty in the thousand. Norway is the most desirable country to live in, since the mean of years is fifty, and the death-rate seventeen. Holland's death-rate is twenty-six. Belgium, France, and England's, twenty-two. In England, the mean age is twenty-six, the average length of life thirty-five. In sixty years, the increase of the Anglo-Saxon race, all over the globe, has equalled the present population of France.

EDITORIAL.

A Word to Medical Students.

He who designs entering a profession, should aim to stand in its highest rank. If he considers such a hope absurd, he ought to give it up at once, and try something in which he can excel. To attain 6

position among the first class of any profession, requires untiring, unconquerable fidelity of application. Thus, in the medical profession the great majority are not industrious students—after they graduate, they rather decline in their scientific knowledge, except in practical matters, and even in those they generally make few improvements. Any young man of fair abilities may be sure of attaining a high and honorable position if he faithfully adheres to his profession and continues to increase in his knowledge by diligent study.

But all his diligence would produce a poor and barren result, if at the outset of his course he placed himself under the guardianship of those who say to the human mind, "thus far shalt thou go, but no further." In other words, if he studies with professional bigots, who tolerate nothing but what they teach themselves, and if he graduates in certain colleges, where he is required to give a solemn pledge to adhere throughout his life to the doctrines of his professors, and to surrender his diploma whenever he deviates from what he has been taught, he may as well surrender all idea of taking an elevated position in the true healing art. He may please his professors and gratify a certain clique, but he can never satisfy his own conscience that he has done the best for his patients in the sight of Heaven.

Colleges which exact such pledges have only one motive. They are conscious that their science and practice are behind the times, and that their pupils will not be restricted to their narrow circle of ideas, after they have been introduced to thoughts and principles of a nobler character.

In the Eclectic Medical College, no such pledges are exacted, for the simple reason that the Faculty, knowing that they are in possession of truth, believe that their truths do not need to be bolstered up by law or by pledges. They exact no pledges, for the same reason that the mathematician exacts no pledges to believe in his multiplication table, and the astronomer exacts no pledges to believe what he shows by his telescope. If the Faculty cannot show the superiority of their practice by clinical treatment, they do not ask belief in its excellence. If their physiological and therapeutic doctrines cannot be established by scientific experiments and by facts, they are willing they should pass away and make room for something better. They are content to teach their pupils the great and philosophic improvements in medical science, knowing that those who attend their lectures invariably participate in the hearty enthusiasm which is excited by the possession of such truths.

The finest and most liberal minds of the medical profession are and have been in different places struggling for the reforms advocated by the Eclectic Medical College. Many of the improvements in the Eclectic practice of medicine are slowly making their way into the prevalent system of practice.

Many young men are deterred from attending medical colleges by very erroneous views of their character and utility. How common is it for young men who design entering the medical profession, to spend two or three years in inefficient study, or reading, as it is called, in the office of a physician, and under false views of economy, attend only one course of lectures at a medical school prior to going into practice. Thus, with a very imperfect medical education, they proclaim the fact that they do not aspire to the common level of professional respectability. The community know that any faithful student of his profession can obtain the degree of M.D. if he deserves it, hence public opinion will recognize the man who fails to graduate in his profession with less favor. There are some fine physicians rich in practical knowledge of their profession, who have injured themselves by this mistake at the beginning. And yet the majority of those who occupy this rank, have really made as much sacrifice of time and money for their present position, as would have been sufficient to place them in a more desirable position. Every one who attempts to study medicine without studying it thoroughly in a good medical College, loses both time and money by the operation,. as well as respectable position.

For proof of this assertion, we refer to the universal experience of students and professors; according to this experience, the four months of a college session teach a student and impress upon his mind more than he generally acquires in twelve months of private study—consequently it is cheaper to attend the most expensive schools in the United States, than to dawdle away time in private reading without collegiate advantages. The facilities now afforded by the Eclectic Medical College of New York are such that any young: man in the country can complete his medical education.

The Electrolysis of Metals.

As this easily proved phenomenon has been, and is yet, doubted by many altogether, we will strive to give such concise directions as will enable any person, with ordinary intelligence, to satisfy himself. of its truth. It is necessary that the voltaic battery required for this purpose, shall possess intensity sufficient to force the current through the system. As the latter is not a very good conductor, several cups will be required. Six of Chester's carbon battery cups may answer this purpose, but twelve would assure a greater certainty. These cups are charged, outside of the porous cups, with one part of sulphuric acid to ten or twelve parts of water. Inside of the porous cups the fluid must consist of the following:—To one quart of hot water, add 1½ pound of bichromate of potassa. After it is dissolved, add two pints of sulphuric acid and one gallon of cold water. fluid is termed by Chester & Co.: "The Electropoion Fluid." firm will sell it cheaper than small quantities can be made, and therefore it would be more politic to purchase it at once of them. the glasses are filled with the proper quantity of acidified water, and the porous cups with the "Electropoion fluid," the cups may be connected together in an alternate series—that is, the carbon of one cup to the zinc of another, and so on until they are all thus connected. As the velocity of the battery has been a source of mystery to some persons, the following explanations may not be irrelevant. Take a series of two elements—that is, one zinc plate and one of copper. Here it is supposed the electricity derives its origin, or at least its dynamic force, from the decomposition of the water. The electric current is supposed to originate at the surface of the positive or zinc plate, and passing through the water to the copper plate, it ascends it, passing through the wire attached to it, to the wire (or pole) connected with the negative or copper plate. The current consequently leaves the wire attached to the copper plate, and hence this wire, or pole, is termed the positive pole. Of course the wire attached to the zinc plate is the negative pole. The positive pole is likewise designated by the term Anode, and the negative pole by that of Cathode. In connecting the battery cups, the carbon (if Chester's battery is used, and it is the best) is equivalent to the copper plate of the old battery, while the zinc cylinder is the positive plate, as is the case with the other batteries. To connect the cups consecutively, the carbon of one cup must be attached to the zinc of the next, and the carbon of the latter to the zinc of the next, and so on. the wire attached to the carbon of the latter, or end cup, is the positive pole, and the wire connected with the other end, or the zinc end, is the negative pole.

These things being premised, the electrolysis of the patient is a

very simple thing. Procure a common foot-bath, either of wood or porcelain (metal must not be used), and upon the bottom of it place a copper plate, well polished at its upper surface, and large enough to allow both feet to rest upon it. To this plate attach the negative pole of the battery, or trial pole, or wire, connected with the zinc end of the battery. The patient, after having taken off his stockings, is to rest his feet upon this copper plate. This foot-bath should contain water sufficient to cover his feet. To this water a little common salt should be added, to insure its conductibility. positive pole should terminate with a small piece of sponge, moistened with a solution of salt. This sponge the operator holds in his hand; and in order that the current may not pass into his hand, a glass handle should be attached to it, so that no portion of the sponge shall touch his skin. This sponge may be applied to the back of the neck during the passage of the current. Or the patient may hold in his hand—occasionally changing it from one hand to the other a metallic handle attached to the positive pole, for twenty minutes.

It frequently happens that the first séance, or sitting, will not disrupt the metallic combination sufficiently to convey it to the metallic plate upon which the feet rest. The second sitting will, however, accomplish it. If the person be well charged with the deleterious metal (say for instance mercury) small globules will make their appearance upon the polished plate. These may be by dexterous management accumulated into one large globule. If the metal exists in the system in very small quantity, a slight silvery appearance will only be discerned upon the plate. Arsenic and antimony will exhibit a bright metallic appearance, greatly resembling each other. If the plate is heated, and the metallic spot closely discerned, the one metal may be distinguished from the other. If it be antimony, the metal will fuse into little globules before it volatilizes, and then will gradually disappear. Arsenic, on the contrary, will volatilize at once, without fusing into globules, as it is the nature of this metal to volatilize before it reaches its fusing point. This simple experiment will at once distinguish antimony from arsenic, while mercury may be easily discriminated by its greater volatility, and by its making its appearance generally in little globules. If the above directions are followed, the reader will have no difficulty whatsoever in demonstrating to any skeptic the absolute certainty of electrolyzing obnoxious metals from the human system.

A Reform in Hospitals Necessary.

WE have very often been impressed with the necessity of a little more humanity on the part of the controlling power, both medical and non-medical, of the various Hospitals of the country. As the Medical department of the general hospitals is almost entirely controlled and managed by young and inexperienced Physicians and Surgeons those who have just completed their terms of academical medical study and without any medical experience they are appointed to these institutions. While all such positions are the very best and most desirable for the young medical man, these appointments are the most unfortunate that could befall the patients who are compelled by circumstances to resort to these institutions for medical assistance, as they are compelled to submit to whatever course of Medical treatment these young and inexperienced Physicians may direct. it possible for such to render the necessary assistance? The want of practical experience precludes any such result, and the sequel is the great mortality in part so great that but few intelligent statistics are presented to the public—we would not wish to be understood as trying to discourage young men from seeking such positions; far from this, for we would advise all to obtain them at every sacrifice, for it is a school from which an amount of experience can be obtained which is very desirable.

The most of the medical gentlemen who are connected with these institutions as the real attending Physicians and Surgeons, are connected with Medical Colleges and engaged in the general practice of their profession, which is alone as much as they can attend to. is it possible that a Physician can visit one of these large Hospitals and examine and prescribe for one or two hundred patients in from three to four hours a day, and at the same time attend to his College and private practice. Any reflecting man will see at once that this is an impossibility, and all such pretensions are a fraud and imposition upon the sick and the public, who pay the necessary expenses for the support and comfort of the unfortunate human beings who find themselves thus situated. There is not a good practitioner of medicine in this city who does not find it necessary every day to give each patient he visits or that consults him, more than five minutes of his time; if this is so when the patient has every possible convenience of home and comfort, how much more is it necessary in Hospital practice, to devote at least as much time to each patient.

The reform that we suggest, is the appointment to all of such places, the Physicians and Surgeons who do meritoriously possess the very highest confidence, ability and skill; let them be disconnected from all the Medical Colleges; let them devote there the necessary amount of time and attention to every possible demand of the sick and the good of the institution. For this they should receive a salary in accordance with the amount of services rendered. If the requirements of the Hospital were such as to demand more attention than one could give, let there be enough appointed to render the necessary labor. In our opinion the saving alone in the burial department, including coffins, &c., would far more than pay the salaries proposed. If we are correct in our suggestions, it is very plain to see what a difference the mortuary statistics would show. Such could associate within them enough young men to carry out a healthy and successful administration of the duties of such institutions.

Another reform is in our opinion necessary. The law should make it the duty of some one to appoint a board of commissioners, whose duty it should be to visit all the institutions of this kind, with full power to act and to be possessed of the entire workings of the Hospitals. In our judgment, this kind of a commission should be appointed the present year, and required to act promptly. If such was done and the Coroners were required to hold an occasional inquest, the community would be startled and shocked in many instances at the dreadful fatality that attends the poor men and women thus situated, and thus would be the means of bringing to light many errors and wrongs which demand reform. The outside world never sees or knows what is going on in closed institutions. We have witnessed results in such institutions that would, if they had attended the same practice out-doors where it could have been seen, caused the greatest indignation, if not the severe penalties of the law. There should be an interest manifested upon this subject that will warrant a prompt action.

We propose in future numbers to take up some of these cases in detail, and if it is possible to inaugurate a reform in the management of these institutions, to do so.

National Eclectic Medical Association.

NEARLY all of the State Eclectic Medical Societies at their annual meetings during the year 1866 have strongly urged the propriety of

holding a National Eclectic Medical Association. They have appointed Committees or directed their corresponding Secretaries to communicate with other Societies upon this subject. This is a very important move and one that requires a free interchange of sentiment, and a complete co-operation of the entire Eclectic Medical Profession of the United States.

We would suggest that the meeting be held in the Spring or Summer of 1868, at such time and place as may be agreed upon by a committee appointed by each of our State organizations of the present year.

The several conventions of the Association in 1849, '50, '51, '52, and '53 were very interesting, and contributed very materially to the rapid progress which the cause of Eclectic medicine made in those years throughout the country. We hope to receive the views of our Physicians on this subject as well as those of our Editorial co-laborers. We feel that so much depends upon this movement and that it might be productive of so much benefit to the cause of Eclecticism—that we cannot too strongly urge its adoption.

University of Michigan

Prof. Samuel G. Armor writes to us that "the class in the Medical department of this University the present session numbers over 500. Our students come from a great distance. I believe every State in the Union is represented; besides quite a number from Canada and other foreign countries.

"The steady and rapid growth of the University has been very wonderful, and especially when we reflect that it costs a student at least twice as much as any other school west of the mountains, St. Louis alone excepted. The Regents charge \$30 for every student out of the State; this added to traveling expenses, and the two months' additional time, make the expenses of the student much greater than in any of the Western Schools, with the exception mentioned. Our term is six months, no student getting his ticket till the close of the term. We think we have made a move in the right direction by establishing a six months' term, and having but four lectures a day."

We copy the above letter from the Editorial Department of the Medical News and Library, Philadelphia, Dec. 1866.

The great advantage which the European Schools have offered to medical students for centuries past has grown out of the fact that those institutions were located in large and populous cities, and connected with the largest hospitals in the world; where instruction was afforded to students by clinical Lectures, by Surgical operations, and by the daily visiting of the wards of these Hospitals with the Professors connected with these schools. All of these facilities and opportunities for studying diseases were enjoyed by every Medical Student. So great were the advantages which this arrangement afforded to students, that these schools were attended by thousands of students from all parts of the civilized world. Hence it may be said that the facilities offered for obtaining a knowledge of clinical Medicine and Surgery, have been the greatest inducement for Medical Students to attend these schools. And this department has always exerted a wider influence than the didactic teaching itself.

As the cities of the United States have become more populous and the various hospital institutions in connection with medical colleges have become more numerous, the Medical Students of this country are permitted to enjoy as great, if not greater, facilities than in many of the European Schools of Medicine; and now, while we acknowledge our obligation to many of the great institutions of Europe, we are confident that it is no longer essentially necessary for students to leave this country to complete their medical education.

At this time it is admitted that the most important feature of medical instruction is, in this country, as it has been in Europe, the union of didactic with clinical teaching; and just as our institutions and cities can afford these facilities, so will be their influence upon the medical mind of this country and the advantages which medical students will derive from attending upon them. Every medical man is compelled of necessity to obtain a definite and fixed amount of knowledge from observation derived alone from the bed side, and which he cannot obtain in any other way. This being true, it is very plain and easy to comprehend why medical students who are educated under such circumstances, and why medical colleges located in populous cities where the students enjoy all of these facilities, are far better educated and the colleges are much more successful.

A medical student who is educated alone by didactic teaching, although he may have received his diploma as an evidence that his

education has been completed according to the forms and requirements of his college,—should not be considered fully educated or prepared to practise medicine: and all such will and do find as soon as they assume the responsible duties of the profession that they labor under the disadvantages resulting from this want of a practical familiarity with disease, and they are compelled from day to day to begin a course of observation and study equal to the labor of a primary system of medical education to supply this deficiency.

REVIEWS AND BIBLIOGRAPHICAL NOTICES.

PRINCIPLES AND PRACTICE OF SURGERY, BY JAMES SYME, F. R. S. E., PROFESSOR OF CLINICAL SURGERY IN THE UNIVERSITY OF EDINBURGH, SURGEON TO THE QUEEN, &c.

Edited with notes and illustrations, by Robert S. Newton, M. D., Professor of Surgery in the Eclectic Medical College of New York City, &c.

Fifth American, from the last Edinburgh edition.

This is a work of peculiar interest to the Medical Profession, and especially to the Eclectic branch of it, and does great credit to its American editor. There is no living European Surgeon more justly distinguished than Mr. Syme. His improvements in the art of surgery, are so many and so important, that they entitle him to the lasting gratitude of all; while his candor and comparative freedom from prejudice, rank him among the most liberal among his profession in the old world. It is to the edition of the writings of such a man, that our American editor has devoted himself, bringing to his aid the well digested material of a ripe experience in the practice of his profession, according to the most improved principles of American Eclectic Surgery. Says he in the preface:—"The question is often asked, what have American Eclectics done to advance Medicine and Surgery? We have shown the true character of mercury, arsenic, and similar agents, as internal remedies, and produced compounds which do all that mercury is claimed to do, and even more, for they are free from the objections to which mercury is liable. We have demonstrated that inflammation is not a disease; that bleeding is never necessary, and that the practice is always unsafe. We have furnished a more rational system of practice, because we reject all theories which do not bear the tests of experience. In a word, we seek the positive and truthful no matter where found, and adopt as fact only that which we can demonstrate in practice. We have simplified operations and made diseases curable which have heretofore been considered as incurable." The editor unhesitatingly attacks any false theory propounded by the author as well as false or inefficient practice, explaining the doctrine held by the Eclectics, and shows by comparison the great improvements in the practice of those physicians.

The work is divided into twenty-seven chapters, and an appendix by

the editor.

The first six chapters treat of inflammation and its resultants—mortification, effusion, ulceration, absorption, granulation, suppuration. On the

subject of inflammation, on which the medical world have always been more or less divided, the editor takes the position that it is a "physiological condition set up in extraordinary cases, for the removal of pathological states, that have been induced by certain well-defined causes, which latter may be either external or internal,,"and that as the removal of the inflammation is not to be effected without first removing the cause. Inflammation is essentially a natural effort of the system to remove either a foreign substance, or to effect the repair of external injuries. The grand idea is that it is a natural action of a part modified by a changed condition, and that in the cure of the condition, we must work in harmony with the natural action. In the treatment of the resultants of inflammation, he recognizes those general principles. Chapter seven treats of "diseased nutrition," embracing terrors of all forms. Chapter eight is added by the editor, and is a valuable disquisition on cancer and its treatment, in the large and very successful practice he has had in the treatment of that formidable disease. He illustrates his treatment by the presentation of a number of severe cases, which were under his care, which were discharged cured, the disease not returning. Chapter nine is on blood vessels, including the treatment of the various forms of aneurism, and the manner of applying ligatures to the different arteries. Chapter ten, on external injuries, and Chapter eleven on amputation, are highly interesting and instructive. In the latter, especially, the author describes fully the operation at the ankle, called "Syme's operation" introduced by himself, by which he claims that there is less risk to the patient, at the same time he retains a limb more useful than a short stump could possibly be. In Chapter twelve, on excision of joints, he furnishes a strong argument in favor of that operation, which in our opinion, in all necessary cases, should be selected in preference to amputation, although it requires a more correct anatomical knowledge for its proper performance. In Chapter thirteen, on bones, and Chapter fourteen, on joints, the editor gives the Eclectic treatment of fractures, and especially of diseased joints, in which that practice is notoriously highly successful. Chapters fifteen and sixteen treat of muscles and tendons, including the various forms of talipes and Chapter seventeen is devoted to diseases of the throat, while Chapter eighteen treats those of the chest, in which the editor gives his treatment for cancer of the breast. The succeeding chapter on the abdomen is mostly occupied by the treatment for hernia. Chapter twenty contains a description of the diseases of the pelvic viscera, such as stricture of the rectum and urethra, hæmorrhoids, fistula, &c. Mr. Syme's perineal incision, upon the point of a grooved sound in the urethra for stricture, is there described by the author, and in addition to this treatment for fistula and hæmorrhoid, the editor gives his own plan of treatment, by which in the former disease, all danger of hæmorrhage is averted, and in the latter the fistulous pipes are destroyed, the sphincter ani saved to the patient and a complete cure perfected. In Chapter twentyone, on diseases of the genital organs, the Eclectic treatment of syphilitic diseases, without mercury, merits a careful attention; for the Allopaths claim that in those diseases especially, that drug is absolutely necessary. In the remaining chapters, on brain, spinal marrow and nerves, skin, eye and its appendages, mouth, nose, ear; there is much that it is peculiarly interesting, concerning the new treatment of many of the forms of disease therein described. Both author and editor have taken especial care to give to the profession the largest amount of valuable and interesting information, without an excessive amount of verbiage or circumlocution.

The work is elegantly and strongly bound in leather, printed with good type, on the best paper, and adorned with a frontispiece of the editor.

NEWS AND MISCELLANY.

Why American Eclectic Physicians Refuse to Bleed.

We refuse to bleed, because we consider it unscientific, injurious to the constitution and often dangerous to life. A physician who takes charge of a patient, in the course of a critical attack of disease, is bound to do everything which will promote his recovery, and to abstain from everything which will increase his debility, or break down that vital power upon which his recovery depends. If other physicians, through ignorance and inexperience, urge a measure which he knows to have injurious and dangerous effects, it is his duty to protest against it, in order to protect the life of the patient, as he would protect the life of his own brother, in a similar position. A physician who is governed by these moral principles, will not yield to fashionable errors, and allow the life of a patient to be sacrificed, while it is possible for him to prevent it.

There are many fashions which have prevailed in medical science. arising from ignorance and inexperience, and perpetuated by authority and example, against which intelligent physicians have arisen, and by earnest opposition and remonstrance, have succeeded in procuring the necessary reform. The barbarous fashion of cauterizing wounds, and closing divided arteries by burning with a hot iron, was the universal fashion of the orthodox practice, until the bold reformer, Ambrose Pare, protested against it, and proved, by the trial, that arteries could be closed without burning, by means of a simple ligature. Pare, of course, experienced great opposition, but was soon triumphant; and every enlightened physician of the present day should be proud to follow his example, and co-operate in destroying or reforming the errors and barbarism of medical science.

We have not the slighest doubt that the entire medical profession will, ere long, regard the practice of bleeding sick and debilitated invalids, as not less absurd than the old fashion of applying the red-hot iron to a painful wound. A large portion of the medical profession have already condemned and rejected bleeding as a barbarism, and a still larger portion of the enlightened public agree with them in sentiment. The entire medical profession have been reforming their practice, in this respect, for fifty years past-bleeding less and less every year, as the world grows more enlightened, but changing their course of treatment so gradually that few are aware that an immense revolution has been accomplished. Twenty, thirty, or forty years ago, physicians almost invariably bled, in every case of active diseases, besides a large number of cases in which chronic debility and the deficiency of blood constituted the leading symp toms. Physicians generally have learned to treat a great portion of their cases of fever without any bleeding, and but few at the present day would be so stupid or barbarous as to resort to the lancet for an attack of cholera, dropsy, tuberculous consumption, delirium tremens, or simple insanity.

It is obvious that the general use of the lancet is going out of fashion in all civilized countries, and if this reform continues for the next fifty years to as great an extent as for the fifty years past, bleeding will be entirely out of fashion by the end of the present century; and the old fashioned lancet will be almost as great a curiosity to the public as the cau-

terizing irons from the days of Ambrose Pare.

When so great a reform as this is in steady progress, men of intelligence and practical sagacity ought not to wait for the slow progress of fashion, but to find out what is right, and to introduce it at once. The reform now in progress has been, to a considerable extent, brought about by the influence of those whose greater boldness and energy has enabled

them to abandon at once an unscientific and dangerous practice.

The Eclectic Medical Physicians of America, are still teaching and practising the doctrine, that the blood is one of the most important parts of the human body, and one which should never be sacrificed under any circumstances. For if it would be barbarous to bleed a man in perfect health, and thus enfeeble and undermine his constitution, it is still more barbarous to bleed him when he has become debilitated by disease, and less able to endure so debilitating a measure. During the last forty years, this American non-depletory system of practice has been tested through all the climates of our country, from Canada to Texas and California, by thousands of practitioners, in every class of diseases. This vast accumulation of experience, has but strengthened and rendered immovable the conviction that the use of the lancet for bleeding, in the treatment of disease, is never, under any circumstances, requisite for the benefit of the patient. On the contrary it is very well known that in fevers, inflammations, and all other diseases for which the lancet has been prescribed the Eclectic practice has been vastly more successful than the practice of any class of physicians who resort to the lancet. Nay more; we can assert, without fear of contradiction, that all over the world, the class of physicians who have entirely repudiated the lancet, have been, without exception, much more successful than those by whom the lancet has been maintained. It is remarkable that all Physicians who have rejected or laid aside the lancet continue to be satisfied with their change, and are never tempted, under any circumstances to resort again to so destructive a measure. On the contrary, of those who have been accustomed to use the lancet, as taught by their professors, a large number are compelled by experience to diminish its use, and some even abandon it entirely, while others, dissatisfied with their results, become entire skeptics as to the value of medical science; or abandon their profession in disgust, unless they find relief in some new system. Even the most ignorant pretenders, without medical education, who merely know how to give a few vegetable remedies, and bathe their patients, have had sufficient success, in many places, to secure a preference over well-educated and scientific practioneers who follow the practice of bleeding.

This universal practical superiority of the non-depletory system, over the old and bloody doctrines of the profession, is a perfect demonstration of the necessity of reform; and whenever a physician of candid mind gives a fair trial to the two methods of practice, he invariably decides against bleeding; hence a large proportion, if not a majority, of those who now reject the lancet, are individuals who were educated to bleed, and would have continued to do so, but for the results of experience. A fair trial of the comparative efficacy of the two systems was made by a German physician, Dr. Dietl. It has long been supposed that pneumonia was, above all other diseases, the one which most especially required the use of the lancet, and which manifested the most remarkable benefit from its application. Dr. Dietl made a fair trial upon three hundred and eighty patients, of the relative value of bleeding and tartar emetic, in comparison with the unassisted resources of nature, with the following result: 189 were treated by diet and rest alone—their mortality was 14, or 7.4 per cent.; 106 were treated by large doses of tartar emetic their mortality was 22, or 20.7 per cent.: 85 were treated by blood-letting, and their mortality was 17, or 20.4 per cent. Thus, while the natural mortality of the edisease, without medicine, was one to 13½, the mortality under the lance was one to five, and under tartar emetic a little more than one to five, or nearly three times as great as when the disease was left to nature. Similar results were obtained by Prof. J. H. Bennett and Dr. Skoda. Wherever the blood-letting treatment has been subjected, by physicians or chemists, to a careful scientific investigation, the result has proved that it has no power to control inflammation, but, on the contrary by increasing the weakness and irritability of the constitution, it ren-

ders the inflammatory process more dangerous and destructive.

Majendie, the distinguished French physiologist, in making the experiment upon dogs, of placing a ligature upon the large biliary duct (ductus choledochus), found that the animals were invariably carried off by attacks of inflammation of the peritoneum (peritonitis). This inflammation was, of course, to be treated in the orthodox fashion by blood-letting; and following up this doctrine, he determined, by bleeding in advance, to prevent the development of inflammation entirely. But instead of preventing the peritonitis by this treatment, he found the attacks to be greatly aggravated. Reducing the blood to a more serous condition only made the peritonitis worse, and when, in place of the blood withdrawn, he injected water, the effects were only more injurious and fatal. Hence he honestly concluded that this mode of impoverishing the blood by the lancet was injurious. He says: "I do not hesitate to assert that the antiinflammatory bleeding ordinarily practised before capital operations, may frequently, according to the constitution of the individual undergoing them, help to determine the serious accidents observed to follow these operations." "I myself long upheld contrary opinions to those I now maintain, but I willingly sacrifice my vanity, and acknowledge my error; if all were as ready to do so, the progress of our science would be much more rapid." Majendie declares, too, that he made a careful trial of the effects of tartar emetic in the treatment of pneumonia and rheumatism, and was entirely unable to discover that they produced any good effects at all upon those diseases, but on the contrary tartar emetic injected into the blood-vessels of animals actually produced pneumonia.

It appears, therefore, that the two fashionable remedies, which have heretofore been so much used in the treatment of inflammation of the lungs, really aggravate the mortality of the disease. If this be the case, it is no mystery that patients, who are left to the power of nature, with faithful nursing and bathing, recover so much better than those who are,

after the old fashion, physicked and bled.

While the universal experience of physicians who have tried both systems, is emphatically opposed to bleeding—while the ample statistics from hospitals, infirmaries, and dispensaries, are equally decisive as to the superiority of a bloodless practice, the dictates of medical science are equally plain and positive, showing that the practice of bleeding is the most irrational violation of the laws of life and health. The facts upon this subject are so well established, so entirely incontestable, and so well known to all who are familiar with the modern achievements of medical science, that it is really remarkable that any well-educated physician should contend for the scientific propriety of blood-letting. The scientific facts by which this question must be determined, are of so simple and intelligible a character, that every intelligent citizen, when they are properly laid before him, may understand them as well as the greatest luminaries of medical science. Upon this subject, every man and woman of our country should be correctly informed, and prepared to protect themselves and their families against the formidable consequences of bleeding. The parent who allows a wife or child to die under this fashionable system of bloodshed, cannot easily excuse himself to his own conscience, for the weakness or ignorance which lead him to submit to

so barbarous a practice.

Why should the blood of the human body ever be spilled or thrown away? Is it a superfluous or poisonous substance? Or is it an essential part of our bodies? Every one knows that the blood is an essential part of the human constitution; as essential as the heart or the lungs, the muscles, nerves, or brain. If a man in perfect health should voluntarily bleed himself, and throw away a gallon or two of his blood, he would be regarded as a maniac; and if he did not fall into some lingering form of disease, it would at least be long before he could recover his wonted vigor. The destruction of the blood would be as absurd and mischievous as the destruction of a portion of the flesh. When the flesh is extirpated by the knife, the injury is local; but when the blood is destroyed by the lancet, the injury is general, affecting all parts of the constitution, and enfeebling every vital power. About thirty-five pounds of blood are necessary for a man of ordinary dimensions, for the functions of life. Every ounce of blood which he loses from his proper supply, is a deduction from the general vital force of his constitution, and renders him more liable to become the victim of disease. Bleeding, therefore, is

nothing more than a direct attack upon vitality.

The chemical examination of the blood, by the most distinguished pathologists of modern times, gives the most ample demonstration of this view of the subject. The blood consists of a clear albuminous and saline fluid, called serum, holding in suspension an immense number of invisible red globules, which red globules constitute one eighth of its entire These red globules are the sources of the peculiar stimulating vitalizing power of the blood in all our organs. Take them away, the serous fluid which remains is incapable of sustaining human life; diminish their quantity, and in proportion to their diminution, the constitution becomes debilitated. It has been shown, by a vast number of examinations of the composition of human blood, that all persons of vigorous constitutions and vigorous health, have a large amount of globules, or a richer constitution of their blood, while those of feeble, nervous, scrofulous, lymphatic, languid, and sickly constitutions, have a more impoverished blood; or in other words, a blood deficient in its essential elements—the red globules. So uniformly is this the case, that it is laid down as a law, by the most distinguished chemists and pathologists of modern times, that when the red globules of the blood amount to one eighth, or twelve and a half per cent., the individual is in a fair condition for the enjoyment of health. When the quantity increases from one eighth to one seventh, or fourteen per cent., he is in a peculiarly plethoric and vigorous condition, in which condition his temperament is active, his muscles vigorous, his brain capable of great exertion, and all the functions of life capable of being carried on with a remarkable vigor. In this robust condition he is less liable to fatigue, less liable to nervous agitation, and dangerous diseases. On the contrary, when the proportion of globules in the blood sinks from an eighth to a ninth, or eleven per cent., the individual falls into a state of debility, and is much less able to undergo severe labor, or to resist any tendency to disease. When the blood becomes still more impoverished, greater and greater debility ensues, and under the ordinary circumstances of life, disease becomes inevitable. The supply of food being defective, each organ is imperfectly nourished, and whenever one organ is brought into very vigorous exercise, it withdraws from other organs what is necessary to maintain their activity. Thus, if the debili-

tated individual engages in a course of study, he debilitates his muscular system; if he engages in manual labor, his brain becomes inactive, he grows dull and stupid; if engaged in close and sedentary application, he becomes dyspeptic; and if his constitution is unable to sustain them—in short, for want of blood, the vital actions become feeble and unbalanced, the individual degenerates in his mental and physical powers, and if no other form of disease is fastened upon him, by local irritations, he gradually tends to a consumptive or scrofulous condition. Hence the immense mortality of consumption, which in most of our cities sweeps off one sixth of the entire population. Yet, no one ever died of tuberculous consumption, without going through this previous course of degeneration of his blood. The immense fields of medical practice are mainly supplied with their victims from the class of constitutions which have fallen below their normal standard of vitality, and lost their due supply of blood. Few, indeed, are attacked with disease who have maintained the normal composition of their blood, and whose vital powers are sustained by twelve, thirteen, or fourteen per cent., of the red globules. Such being the facts established by the researches of Andral and Gavarret, Majendie Simon, Becquerel, Rodier, Denis, Lecanu, and a host of other chemical pathologists, it becomes obvious that the great duty of physicians in the preservation of health is, to sustain the normal composition of the blood, and to prevent any impairment of the vital force which resists disease. Knowing, that if this normal composition of the blood could be kept up, consumption, scrofula, and a host of similar diseases of debility, would become impossible, it should evidently be the duty of the physician to increase, and not to diminish, those globulous elements of the blood, which are so essential to life, and which never produce any morbid effects.

The evils connected with the blood arise from degeneration and impurities, which nature is vigilant to remove. For this purpose she uses the lungs, the kidneys, the bowels, and the skin, to burn up and evaporate, or to wash away and remove all noxious elements which impair the health and vitality of the blood. These organs as arranged by the allwise Creator, are perfectly competent to regulate the blood by removing its impurities, and by discharging any element which is in excess; and while these organs perform their duty properly, it is impossible that the blood should fail to be pure and healthful. If there is any departure from the standard of health, the rational physician, knowing its cause, stimulates some of the flagging organs to a more vigorous performance of their duty, and after he has properly aroused the action of the skin, the bowels, the kidneys, the liver, and the lungs, health is speedily restored. But he who follows antiquated fashions, rather than the lights of modern science, instead of purifying and renovating the blood, through the organs established for that purpose by the divine wisdom, inflicts a wound upon the veins and barbarously spills and destroys the blood, because he has not the skill or the patience to renovate its composition, in accordance with the laws of nature. Yet, what is to be gained by destroying the blood itself, when it has fallen into a morbid condition? After a portion of the blood has been drawn, the remainder is in the same morbid condition as before, while the vital power of the constitution is impaired, just in proportion to the amount which has been lost.

The globules which are the essential element of the blood, are the product of a mysterious vital power which operates slowly, and are very difficult to regenerate, while the more worthless, the impure and morbid constituents of the blood are rapidly reproduced. Water may be absorbed from the stomach and bowels, to fill the blood-vessels, in a few minutes—the albumen may be regenerated in a few days, while the inflammatory

and morbid elements of the blood are capable of more rapid production than any other constituents. Thus, after bleeding, we find that the character of the blood is invariably deteriorated; it has less of the vital globules, is of a more serous or watery constitution, and in the majority of cases, has more of the inflammatory and noxious elements, with less vital power to resist their formation. Why, then, should a physician ever bleed? Why should he co-operate actually with the disease? Why should he render the patient pale, feeble, and bloodless, when the disease is already accomplishing the task with sufficient rapidity? Why should he attack and destroy the healthful life-giving portion of the blood, when it is only the inflammatory and noxious elements which he is required to expel? Why should he enter the citadel of life, and turn out its garrison the red globules of the blood, instead of expelling its enemies, the inflammatory, disorganized, and decaying substances, which nature is striving to expel? Why should he not assist the powers of nature in expelling noxious substances through the bowels, kidneys and skin, and leave the life-sustaining element in the blood, which enables the patient to resist the ravages of disease, and enables him, when the disease has subsided, to rise speedily from his bed, and resume the active duties of life?

Even supposing the patient should survive the double attack from his disease and from the lancet; supposing that he has retained blood enough in his veins to endure the painful and prostrating attack, he recovers with an exhausted constitution, and it is long before his cadaverous and trembling limbs assume the appearance of health. Long years afterward, he has occasion to refer back to that dreadful attack of fever which shattered his constitution, from the effects of which he has never recovered. But probably he is not aware, that the permanent injury to his constitution arose, mainly, from the loss of blood, and that had he been treated in a rational manner, he would have carried through his attack a sufficient amount of blood to have resumed, in a week or two, his wonted habits, with the vigor of limb and the elasticity of sprits which he had formerly enjoyed, and an equal prospect for a long and happy life, since no import-

ant portion of his constitution had been lost or greatly impaired.

If such be a fair statement of the ordinary effects of bleeding in medical practice among vigorous constitutions, what is it among the delicate To all of feeble constitutions, the depletory system is a speedy and effectual mode of breaking down what little vitality they have, and inviting the early approach of death. It is not possible for those who have already less than the necessary amount of blood, to lose any material quantity of their vital resources without the production of disease. The pale, feeble, bloodless invalid—the delicate, nervous, and consumptive individual, who fancies himself to enjoy tolerable health, because he is not yet confined to his bed—the dyspeptic, melancholic, languid individuals, whose relaxed muscles are incapable of performing one fourth of the task of a day-laborer, who never enjoyed the glorious consciousness of luxurious health and overflowing vital power, are capital material for the devastations of the lancet. As the raw conscripts of Napoleon were considered mere food for gunpowder, so this immense class of feeble constitutions has been, in times past, the food for the lancet. And medical men generally, until a few years past, have so commonly broken down that vitality in consumptive constitutions which they should have built up and renovated, that the idea has become almost immovably fixed in the medical mind, that consumption is an incurable disease. It was, indeed, incurable, when the physician, with lancet in hand, exhausted the vital power, and hastened the patient to his grave; but under the more rational system, which not only preserves, but builds up the vital power, not only is consumption curable, in a large proportion of cases, but a large number of diseases which end in death under the depleting system, end in the full restoration of health and vigor, under the treatment which preserves the blood—the circulating life of the body.— Eclectic Medical Truths.

NOTICE.

It is desired that every Eclectic physician in the State of Indiana send me his address at once, and in return will receive documents from the State Eclectic Mcdical Association which will, it is hoped, prove useful.

Address—

G. W. Pickerill, M. D.

G. W. PICKERILL, M. D., Cor. Sec. E. M. A., Indianapolis, Ind.

CONN. REFORM MEDICAL ASSOCIATION.

THE semi-annual meeting of the Conn. Reform Medical Association was held at Meriden, Nov. 20th, 1866.

The President, J. W. Johnson, M. D., being in the chair called the meeting to order.

The minutes of last meeting were read and accepted.

Drs. II. I. Fisk, J. H. Robinson and G. N. Langden were appointed a Committee to confer with the Homœopathic Medical Society.

The report of the Committee on finances was accepted.

The report of the Committee on by-laws was read by Dr. Fisk

On motion it was voted that the preamble and by-laws be accepted and adopted by this Association.

Drs. J. W. Johnson, G. N. Langden and H. I. Fisk were appointed a Committee to confer with the next Legislature to change the name of this Association to that of the Eclectic Medical Society.

The Recording Secretary was instructed to collect the books and all papers belonging to the Botanic and Eclectic Medical Societies and present them to the next annual meeting.

On motion it was voted that the Committee on Equal Rights in State Hospitals be continued and confer with the Homeopathic Medical Society and report at the next annual meeting.

The following resolution was passed:

Resolved, That this Association is strongly in favor of, and highly recommends a National organization of the Eclectic Medical profession, and that annual national meetings in the future be held.

The Corresponding Secretary was directed to correspond with the Secretary of other Eclectic Medical Societies and inform them of the above resolution.

The following resolutions were recommended and unanimously adopted: Resolved, That this Society recommend the Eclectic Medical College of New York as a school ably conducted and well adapted for the education of students and others for the profession of Medicine.

Resolved, That the American Eclectic Medical Review of New York be recommended to the profession as well conducted and worthy of a generous support.

Remarks were made by Prof. R. S. Newton, M. D., and Prof. Wm. W.

Hadley, M. D., of New York, and other members present.

On motion it was voted that the Secretary report to the "American Eclectic Medical Review" at New York the proceedings of this Society. The Society adjourned to meet at Hartford second Tuesday in May,

1867, at 10 o'clock A. M.

Rocky Hill, Conn.

N. D. Hodgkins, M. D., Rec. Sec.

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AMERICAN

ECLECTIC MEDICAL REVIEW;

A Monthly Record of Medicine

AND

THE COLLATERAL SCIENCES.

VOL. II.

FEBRUARY, 1867.

No. 9.

ORIGINAL COMMUNICATIONS.

Old and New Chemistry.

A LECTURE DELIVERED BEFORE THE CLASS OF THE ECLECTIC MEDICAL COLLEGE OF NEW YORK.

J. MILTON SANDERS, M. D., LL. D.

He who would come duly prepared and fitted to the business of interpretation, must neither be a follower of novelty, custom, nor antiquity; nor indulge himself in a liberty of contradicting; nor servilely follow authority. He must neither be hasty in affirming, nor loose and skeptical in doubting; but raise up particulars to the places assigned them by their degree of evidence and proof.

LORD BACON, Novum Organum Scientiarum, No. xi.

If any one should condescend to regard such things as are accounted rather curious than useful, and take a thorough view of the works of the alchemists, or the followers of natural magic, he might, perhaps, be at a difficulty which he should withhold, his tears or his laughter.

In., Novum Organum, sec. v.

It is a little curious to think that for centuries men gazed upon the earth, observed the beauties of nature, breathed the air, swallowed the water, and never suspected, nor cared for, a knowledge of their nature. It really appears to me as if people in those ages had not the curiosity we have in this, else they certainly would have felt a strong desire to probe into the nature and composition of all these things. The ancients were people of strong intellectual powers. Their thoughts upon the mind, its objective and subjective powers, its analytical and discriminating force, and all of its various operations, were of the most philosophical nature. They had

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studied the human mind analytically: they were cognizant of all its phases of operation, and were complete masters of all its emotions, intricacies, and idiosyncrasies. To this subject they devoted their almost exclusive study. They labored under the impression that to study human nature in its various phases constituted the whole of philosophy, and that he who could write most voluminously upon this subject possessed the most wisdom. We have volumes upon the various operations of the mind in its relations to political economy, to philosophy—as they rendered the word—to religion, &c., still we say that these really intellectual people breathed the air, drank the water, ate their food, gazed upon and admired the various beauties of nature, and never conceived the thought of probing into the ultimate nature of these things. The conception that air, earth, fire, and water were the four and only elements, appeared to satisfy them. They accepted this postulate as the axiom of unimpeachable wisdom, nor for a moment appeared to doubt it. It never entered into the mind of any person to try by demonstrable evidence whether these elements were really so. So strong is the force of education and so binding upon us the ipse dixit of authority, that to shake it off requires a force of originality and independence of intellect possessed but by few. That "nature abhors a vacuum" was an axiom stamped by the highest authority, and to inquire why nature abhorred a vacuum would be to perpetrate a sin calling forth the severest censure and derision. Hence we perceive that mere sounding terms passed for causation and explanation, and what was really an evasion was accepted as a lucid interpre-What was, therefore, termed philosophy in those tation. days and for centuries subsequently, was a heterogeneous jumble of ideas, wrought into forms undemonstrable and incomprehensible, but which passed for a generalization of truths unimpeachable.

In time people began to tire of these abstrusities, especially as they brought forth nothing satisfactory or demonstrable. A new order of men came upon the stage, who, upon looking about them, saw at least the germ of the pres-

ent science of chemistry. It is natural that people should at first form absurd notions, for it requires time to enable us to sift sophisms and errors from the bright truths which are incorporated with them. No one intellect can do this, nor even one generation; but in physical science, where long and tedious experiments must settle theories, topple over hypotheses and undo crudities, time is required in order that men's minds may become gradually capacitated to take in the light of new ideas. Error is a thing of quick growth, but slow to be eradicated, for the reason that it is more difficult to unlearn than to learn. Nothing adheres so tenaciously as a cherished opinion, or a theory rooted by early education. To get rid of these, really requires more force of will than to acquire many recondite ones of greater moment after the old rubbish shall have been brushed away. Before alluding to the truths of modern chemistry, we shall briefly take cognizance of the notions of those who were first awakened to the importance of this science. In the early ages the faculty of cupidity appeared to be the impelling force of human progress. It was thus with the science of chemistry. It is curious to read over the aspirations, the dreams and the pretensions of the earlier chemists. Not acquainted with the laws which govern matter, nor with its properties, but in a very limited degree, they were led away by a vivid imagination into the regions of the wildest absurdity. These earlier philosophers were termed Alchemists. This word is involved in some obscurity. It arose among the Arabians, who were the first alchemists. The origin of the term is under dispute, but the ablest philologists have decided that it was derived from al-kemy, the knowledge of the substance or composition of bodies, so named from the substantive kymon, signifying the substance or constitution of anything, from the root kama. This is the definition of Prof. Palmer, of Cambridge University, England. Prof. Brande says it is derived from kema, an oriental word signifying black (or, the black art), or from Chemia the Coptic name for Egypt, where the art first arose. Bryant (Ancient Mythology) says it is derived from Chamia, and that word from Cham.

Previous to the commencement of the seventeenth century, chemistry did not really exist as a science. Those who existed before this, it is true, were acquainted with a number of chemical substances, but they were merely isolated facts, empirically prepared, and not understood as regards their composition. In the fourteenth century Alchemy began to flourish. One prevailing idea originated it, or rather transplanted it from the Saracens: this was to transmute the ignoble metals, such as lead, into the noble metal gold. The Alchemistical writers of the fourteenth and two following centuries are voluminous upon this all-absorbing question. The earliest writer upon Alchemy that we have any account of, was Hermes Trismedistus, who lived in the year of the world His Tractatus Aureus is a record of the wonders of Alchemy, full of occult sentences, and mystical reasonings. This sage writer assures us that he should never have revealed the secrets of the Black Art, had not "the fear of eternal judgment, or the hazard of the eternal perdition of his soul," prevailed with him for such a concealment. But after this confession the reader may look in vain for a revelation of these wonderful secrets, for they are so hidden in the farrago known only to the initiated, that to get anything lucid from them is out of the question. This we may expect, for he assures us that his secrets cannot be revealed "to the profane, the unworthy, and the scoffer, who, being as greedy dogs, wolves and foxes, are not to feed at our divine repast." After this assurance, the reader is then conducted into the esoteric department of this mystical temple and there regaled with a repast upon the philosopher's stone, by which, he assures us, "through the permission of the Omnipotent, the greatest disease is cured, and sorrow, distress, evil, and every hurtful thing evaded, by help of which we pass from darkness to light, from a desert and wilderness to a habitation and home, and from straitness and necessities to a large and ample estate." Having thus excited our desires and cupidity, we are then directed how to "catch the flying bird" (by which is meant quicksilver), "and drown it, so that it may fly no more" (by which is meant the fixture

of mercury by amalgamating it with gold.) We are then delectated with a very mystical account of "The well of the Philosopher," or Aqua regia, by which its soul will be dissipated, and its corporeal particles united to the "red eagle," or chloride of gold. Having failed to extract the secrets of Hermes from his very learned work, we will turn to another writer equally as voluminous, and equally as satisfactory to the anxious inquirer after the secrets of the black art—that is to Geber. In perusing his four principal works, one is ever upon the qui vive, in the expectation that the wonderful secrets will be revealed, but we look in vain through his De Alchemia, his De summa Perfectione Metallorum, his De Lapide Philosophiæ, or his De inveniendi Arte Auri et Argenti, for the revelation of these secrets. Geber wrote about the seventh century. His works are among the oldest They were published in Strasburgh in 1520, and, although replete with the mystical phrases of the Alchemists, have many passages which, as Boerhaave says, stamp him as a first-rate philosopher of his time. He wrote likewise upon diseases, and in his chapter "On the Alchemy of Sol," gives us various methods of refining gold, and how to dissolve it. His students are particularly directed to prepare their minds for the study by suitable acts of piety and charity, which, by being persistently carried on, may enable them "to change argent vive into an infinite solific and lunific, without the help of anything more than its multiplications." He is the inventor of various alembics, crucibles and furnaces, some of which are used, with some modifications, at the present day. "Bring me the six lepers that I may cleanse them," he says; by which he means that if the six metals, mercury, iron, copper, tin, lead and silver, are given him he will transmute them into gold. The reader may readily conceive that his sentences are not very clear, from the fact that our word Gibberish is derived from the style of GEBER and his pupils.

We next come to the Alchemist ARTEPHIUS, who in 1170 published several works. We are assured by Roger Bacon that this eminent alchemist lived to the venerable age

of 1,025 years, having attained this remarkable longevity through the rejuvenating effects of The Grand Catholicon. His works, and those of his pupil John De Rupescissa, have passed almost into oblivion, while the brighter star in alchemy, Roger Bacon, still survives. Friar Bacon flourished in 1240 as a learned man. Prof. Brande says of this alchemist: "I know of no work that strikes me with more surprise than the Opus Majus of Roger Bacon: he stands alone like a beacon upon a waste; he is perspicuous and comprehensive, and full of anticipation of the advantages likely to be derived from the mode of investigation insisted upon by his great successor Chancellor Bacon.

Friar Bacon was soon accused of witchcraft, and was thrown into prison and nearly starved to death for exposing the prevailing immorality of the clergy, and came very nigh being burned as a magician.

HALLAM, in his History of the Middle Ages, thus writes of the two Bacons: "Whether Lord Bacon ever read the Opus Majus, I know not; but it is singular that his favorite quaint expression prerogativa scientiarum should be found in that work; and whoever reads the sixth part of the Opus Majus upon experimental science, must be struck by it as the prototype, in spirit, of the Novum Organum. The same sanguine, and, sometimes, rash confidence in the effects of physical discoveries; the same fondness for experiments; the same preference of induction to abstract reasoning, per vade both works." Friar Bacon was the alleged inventor of gunpowder, and this immortalizes his name. His work, "The Mirror of Alchemy," possesses but little merit, so Prof. Brande informs us. That he was the inventor of gunpowder is, however, erroneous; for we have the account that this substance was introduced by the Saracens into Europe direct from the Arabians, and was known to the Chinese centuries previously.

Albert of Cologne was a contemporary of Roger Bacon. He invented the *Brazen Head*, which was destroyed by his pupil, Dr. Aquinas, in a paroxysm of pious zeal, suspecting it to be an agent of Satan. Dr. Aquinas wrote several

works upon alchemy; but they are obscure and unintelligible.

ALBERTUS MAGNUS was deeply skilled in alchemy, and his works are voluminous, occupying twenty-one folio volumes. In one of his works occurs, for the first time, the word *Amalgam*, which is still used to designate the alloying of mercury with another metal.

Without alluding to the works of the alchemists any further, we will examine some of their assertions. You will be enabled to judge of their pretensions from their own language. We are assured that the wonderful Powder of Projection would convert the baser metals into gold. We are informed that one Paykul, by adding one part of this wonderful powder to six drachms of lead, produced an ingot of gold, which was coined into one hundred and forty-seven ducats. How this powder could increase the weight of six drachms of lead—a lighter metal than gold—into gold sufficient to make so many ducats, we are not informed. But this is even excelled by the stories of the great alchemist Helverius, in his "Brief of the Golden Calf." This book recounts the greatest secrets, "discussing the rarest miracles in nature; how by the smallest portion of the Philosopher's Stone, a great piece of common lead is totally transmuted into the purest transplendent gold." This, we are assured, was accomplished at the Hague, in 1666. This learned Dr. Helvetius assures us, that he had seen a piece of the Philosopher's Stone, not bigger than a walnut, which possessed the miraculous property of transmuting twenty tons of lead into gold; and he further assures us, that with a small piece, less than the size of a coriander seed, he had himself transmuted half an ounce of lead. Now, perhaps you may have the desire to transmute some lead into gold yourselves. I apprehend you will have no difficulty, so very lucid are the descriptions of the processes given by these Masters of the Black Art. You may peruse Stahl's Fundamenta Chemiæ, and Junker's Conspectus Chemia, upon these processes; or, better still, the learned alchemical work of Carolus Musitanus. latter lets us into the secret in the following very lucid manner:

- 1. Prepare a quantity of spirit of wine, so free from water that it is wholly combustible, and so volatile, that when a drop of it is let fall, it evaporates before it reaches the ground. This constitutes the first menstruum.
- 2. The next is pure mercury, revived from cinnabar with salt and vinegar.
- 3. This mercury is triturated till all the running mercury has disappeared.
- 4. The mixture is sublimed in an aludel. This is sublimated the second time. This sublimate is "the salt of wise men," and, we are assured, possesses wonderful properties.
- 5. It is ground in a mortar, and the spirit of wine poured upon it, and exposed to a mild heat for 24 hours. The spirit of wine is then distilled off, together with the "spirits of the mercury." These are re-distilled, when the philosopher says, "You have now performed a great work—now return thanks to God, who has hitherto crowned your great work with success. Now is this work," the alchemist further states, "no longer involved in Cimmerian darkness, but clearer than the sun, though preceding writers have imposed upon us with parables, hieroglyphics, fables and enigmas." The alchemist then proceeds with his explanation of the great secret of transmutation. He informs us that "this mercurial spirit contains the magical steel in its belly." After another distillation, he says, we will find at the bottom of the retort the "quintessence, or soul of the mercury." He now assures us that he shall at once proceed to give us the secret, which he "shall communicate clearly and distinctly, without digression or obscurity." He then proceeds: "In the name of God, then, take common gold, purified in the usual way by antimony; convert it into small grains, which must be washed with salt and vinegar, till it is quite pure. Take one part of this gold, and pour upon it three parts of the quintessence of mercury; as philosophers reckon from seven to ten, so we also reckon our number as philosophical, and we begin with three and one; let them be married together, like husband and wife, to produce children together of their own kind,

and you will see the common gold sink and plainly dissolve. Now, then, marriage is consummated; now two things are converted into one; thus the philosophical sulphur is at hand; as the philosophers say, the sulphur being dissolved, the stone is at hand. Take then in the name of God our philosophical vessel, in which the king and queen embrace each other as in a bed-chamber, and leave it till the water is converted into earth; then peace is concluded between the water and the fire; then the elements have no longer anything contrary to each other; because when the elements are converted into earth, they no longer oppose each other, for in earth all elements are at rest. For the philosopher says, 'when you shall have seen the water coagulate itself, think that your knowledge is true, and that your operations are truly philosophical.' The gold is now no longer common, but ours is philosophical, on account of our process; at first exceedingly fixed, then exceedingly volatile, and finally exceedingly fixed; and the whole success depends upon the change of the elements. Now our tincture is wholly converted into sulphur, which possesses the energy of curing all diseases; this is our universal medicine against all the most deplorable diseases of the human body; therefore return thanks to Almighty God for all the good things which he has bestowed upon us." The philosopher then gives us the process for "fermenting gold" by projecting it upon The sulphide he terms fermented gold. fermented gold he then "projects" upon mercury, and this is his "perfect metal." Our philosopher concludes his description thus: "My friend, you have a description of the universal medicine, not only for curing all diseases and prolonging life, but also for transmuting all metals into gold. Give thanks therefore to Almighty God, who, taking pity on human calamities, has at last revealed this inestimable treasure, and made it known for the common benefit of all."

After perusing this rigmarole, you will perceive that these alchemists had conceived the notion that, not only would gold prolong human life, but that it would confer its stable and unoxidizing properties to metals.

I have given you the above quotation in order that you may have a fair sample of the want of lucidity which characterized the writings of the alchemists. They wrote, not to instruct or enlighten, but to conceal their own ignorance, under the garb of pretentious erudition.

Passing over these first alchemists, who were mere pretenders, we find an advance in Basil Valentine, who flourished in the early part of the fourteenth century. he was strongly tinctured with the notions of the alchemists, still he possessed an acute, philosophical intellect, and was the discoverer of several important substances. "Triumphal Chariot of Antimony" he gives us a variety of experiments and suggestions which prove that he possessed a mind of no ordinary nature. In his Heliographia he treats of the preparation, uses and virtues of mineral, animal, and vegetable salts. In his Currus Triumphalis we find directions for preparing nitric, sulphuric, and muriatic acids, being the first treatise in which their preparation is mentioned. He likewise gives the process for the preparation of sulphate of iron, in which he assures us that this salt is a good medicine as a tonic, and applied as a styptic. The term antimony, so we are informed, was derived from the following incident: Having thrown some antimony to some hogs they are it with avidity and fattened upon it. This singular circumstance being communicated to the head of a monkish establishment, that functionary conceived the idea of trying it upon some of the monks, who had become lean through fasting, prayer and mortification. The kind anticipations of the good father were scarcely realized, for the monks "quickly went to Hence the metal was named Antimoine (or antimonk), and became corrupted to Antimony.

I have given you, gentlemen, a brief sketch of the rise of the great science of chemistry. It took its origin, as you perceive, amongst men whose motives for cultivating the science were guided more by the promptings of avarice and cupidity, than for the noble purpose of acquiring a knowledge of nature. In speaking of these alchemists Bergman says:—
"Although most of them are deceptive and very uncertain,

some bear such character and testimony, that unless we reject all historical evidence, we must allow them to confidence." We, however, agree perfectly with Prof. Brande, who says: "For my own part, the perusal of the histories of transmutation appears to me to furnish solid ground for a diametrically opposite opinion. They are all of a most suspicious character; sometimes the fraud was open and intentional, succeeded by juggling dexterity; at other times the performers deceived themselves; they purchased what was termed a 'Powder of Projection,' prepared by the adepts, containing a portion of gold; and when they threw it in the fire with mercury, and found that portion of gold remaining in their crucible, they mistook its source. But the cases which are quoted as least exceptionable are often exactly those which are really impossible: namely, where the weight of the powder of projection, and of the lead, or other base metals, taken conjointly, was exceeded by that of the gold produced."

Since those early days, the science of chemistry has steadily advanced. For a time it struggled against error and The phrase of "The Black Art" clung to it, prejudice. and its votaries were thought to be in league with the devil. The Church (that formidable adversary to progress in the middle ages) stamped the seal of its condemnation upon it. He who studied this science was proscribed, and hence its cultivators were necessitated to conceal themselves in dark places, lest the officers of the Holy Inquisition should get wind of their proceedings. Finally it emerged from its darkness, and proscription ceased to follow it. The men of education and intellect directed their attention to it, and it gradually arose and began to assume the dignity of a science. Still it was replete with errors, which clung to it with remarkable tenacity. It required many years before men's minds could be freed from that stupid absurdity Phlogiston. This idea retarded the progress of the science for half a century, for until this notion could be got rid of it was impossible for the present truths of the science to have their birth. It was the general idea that all bodies, at least those which

We term combustible, contained a fluid termed phlogiston. Upon being burnt, this phlogiston was supposed to escape. This idea can readily be conceived, if we will observe the combustion of a piece of wood. We can easily imagine the escape of a fluid giving light and heat, as we observe the little fingers of flame shooting out from the wood. This was thought to be the phlogiston, or principle of combustion, escaping from the wood. This idea precluded all further research upon the subject—the phrase phlogiston accounted for it all, and at once stopped all further thoughts—and the beautiful and instructive process of combustion was a sealed book.

Thus the theory of Beecher and Stahl took precedence, and its great plausibility prevented all others from gaining the favor of the public. "Water, acid, earth and fire," said these philosophers, "in phlogiston is a principle of extreme tenuity, and prone to a kind of vertiginous motion in which it appears as fire." * When phosphorus has burnt, says Stahl, it produces an acid matter, with evolution of much heat and light; consequently phosphorus consists of acid and phlogiston; or where zinc is heated to redness, it burns with a brilliant flame, and is converted into a white, earthy substance or calx. Hence zinc consists of this earth and phlogiston. It will be perceived that nothing is said about the increase in weight of the zinc by being burnt. Rey attributed this increase (for it had been observed) to the condensation of air; and Mayo has referred it to "nitro-aerial particles." (Hooke had noticed previous to this, that nitre had given out an air, which he termed nitro-aerial par-This, it would be unnecessary to say, was oxygen, but it was not suspected that air, as it was termed, entered

^{*}Beecher, in his *Physica Subterranea*, informs us that "the elements of all bodies are air, water, and three earths, one of which is inflammable, another mercurial, and another fusible." "The three earths combined in the water," he adds "constitute an universal acid, which is the basis of all other acids. The combination of the two earths produces lapideous bodies; and in the metals the three earths are united in various proportions."

into combination with the zinc, thus increasing its weight. It was left for a greater and more acute intellect to unravel this intricate problem, and that man was Lavoisier. his time chemistry assumed a new phase, and for the first time took the form of a true science. The wild speculations of the older chemists were supplanted by true inductive research, and we read no more those interminable essays, filled with incomprehensible subtleties upon atoms and imaginary principles which existed only in the brains of enthu-We have no mere assertions, that a pungent taste is owing to the atoms of the body being formed of sharp particles. In a voluminous tract devoted to these subjects, Lemery assures us that the particles of an acid bear the form of spear-heads with barbs; and that those of the alkalies are formed like a sponge; and the neutralization of the alkali by the acid was perfectly explained by the fact of the blunting of the acid particles by the alkaline ones. For instance when gold was precipitated from its solution by ammonia, he attributed to the ammonia the property of breaking off the spear-heads from the shafts of the acid particles. "It acts," says Lemery, "like a cudgel which a boy throws up into a walnut tree loaded with fruit." In the same manner things were judged more from their physical than chemical properties; for instance, a cooling action upon the system was ascribed to certain substances possessed of a cooling taste: and alcohol, in consequence of its strong taste, was termed a Roborant, or strengthening remedy.

These notions have passed away. A different class of men have appeared upon the stage. The progress of a century or two has brought forth a class of philosophers with intellects of a different stamp. Devoid of that cupidity which impelled the old philosophers, and desirous of disseminating the results of their labor, instead of concealing them, they have stamped a new era upon the mind's progress. The adoption of the Balance has wrought wonders by giving to experiment a numerical value it did not before possess. By this we derived our knowledge of definite proportions, and of chemical equivalents, and we began to

comprehend the beautiful order which reigns in all substances. Instead of chaos and disorder, we find harmony and exactness existing in all matter; that the dirt at our feet, the stones lying around us, the air we breathe, the water we drink, and all vegetable and animal substances are subject to the same laws, whose exactitude binds them into groups of molecules as perfect and harmonious as immutable truth. Not only insentient matter, but all the sensuous and percipient powers—the various intricacies of the intellect, the passions, the emotions, are all subject to the same laws—the mere creatures of affinities. A burst of passion may be weighed in the balance, for we find that the duration and intensity of the paroxysm, may be estimable in grains. A paroxysm of grief may possess the value of ten or twenty grains of metamorphosed cerebral matter, and another of joy perhaps as much. The least ertion in thinking may be safely estimated in the proportional increase of phosphates in the urine, and then we arrive at a numerical expression of the amount of force expended in a certain amount of thought. We find that this force is derived from the food, and that it was originally obtained by the vegetation that wove it into organic matter for us, from the sun. All mental exertions, we have therefore ascertained, are creatures of the sun. sun they derived their birth, and doubtless, to the sun they will ultimately return. The sun, we find, is the great reservoir of force in all its forms of Heat, Light, Electricity, Magnetism, and chemical Affinity. These are all forces, and may be estimated correctly in foot-pounds, whereby we may arrive very closely at the number of feet a certain amount of thought will raise a weight of one pound. Thus the chemist of the present day does not busy himself about the transmutations of lead into gold, but his aims are higher, nobler, and more worthy of the Divinity which reigns within Not content with the materials which surround us upon this sphere, the philosopher has penetrated into distant planets—into our sun, and the fixed stars. He finds by Spectral Analysis—by the rays of light from these far-off orbs—that they are globes like our own, containing the same substances, or at least a part of them. We call down the rays of light from their surfaces, and compel them to reveal to us, in undeviating and unmistakable language, the various materials of which they are built up. For thousands of years these rays of light may have been traversing the vast void that intervenes between those planets and us: but finally they reach us; bearing in their bosom the language of their composition, they reveal to us the curious information, that they too contain iron and copper, and soda, and potash, and various other familiar substances so bountifully supplied to our own planet.

No less wonderful are the achievements of the modern chemist among the matter lying immediately about us. people for ages past have not failed to recognize, in most fruits, a delicious flavor peculiar to each one. What can be more refreshing and delectable, than the fragrance emanating from the strawberry, or pine-apple, or raspberry, or banana, or melon, or peach, or plum? It was never supposed that these very rare and fugitive flavors could ever be the creatures of successful analysis, or, much less, that after prying into their composition, they would ever be produced, in all their deliciousness, by the art of the chemist. still how much more difficult the belief, that when these mysterious processes were discovered, we should ascertain that these delightful flavors emanate from the bosom of putridity, nauseousness and poison. Can there be anything more disgusting and forbidding than the refuse of the gasretort—coal tar? Spurn it not—turn not from it with the expression of disgust—for it contains locked in its fœtid bosom the most vivid colors in nature.—Ay, it contains things of greater value; for locked within those dull crypts are secreted bases whose combination with acids will produce alkaloids resembling those produced by nature—alkaloids which, like the natural ones, are destined to remove from the emaciated frame its disease—to impart to the lips, ashy with disease—to the cheeks paled with disordered action, the bloom of health and of youth.

Look around you! There is nothing that the chemist has not placed his wand upon, and impressed upon it forever the stamp of his genius. From the nauseous plant he has evoked the most valuable medicines, or the most vivid dyes, or those neutral substances of infinite value to the arts. To the very air itself, he has imparted renewed life, and given it a chemical vigor which it does not possess in its common oxygen, by means of its ozonized condition. He has found that this ozone—everywhere about us, and only a brief time ago unsuspected—is the really vivifying principle of life, and the accelerator of the decomposition of all animal and vegetable matter, that life may again spring out of death. To this active, or allotropic oxygen, we owe everything. Bereft of its presence all life would cease upon the earth death would exist everywhere, and chaos itself would take the place of the beautiful order and harmony which characterize the wise ordinances of Providence. Tremble not, therefore, when the deafening peal of thunder rolls overhead, for the vivid and fierce bolt of electricity which sweeps over the heavens carries along with it, and imparts for hundreds of yards around it, a vivifying influence which involves all sentient beings. We little dream that in the vivid glare of the leaping lightning, there is life and hope, for in its wondrous force there is involved a corresponding vital one, implicating all living things.

Marvel not, then, that we are surrounded with things wonderful, whose invisible spells are constructing a potent chain of destiny ever about us. The tiny children of light are hovering around us, and with fairy fingers are impressing upon us the singular potency of their spells. The gorgeous robe they fling upon us bears in its folds the very essence of vitality. Attenuated and delicate as is this robe of light, it contains within its folds all the forces that we see upon this earth; and of such a Protean property, that we are the more astonished at its versatile and polygenous nature. The irresistible fury of the tornado, the force of the surging waves, the terrific might of the leaping lightning, are due to the silent though potent force of this sun-light—

and still, with fairy fingers, more delicate than the touch of the gossamer, it paints upon the sensitive film the wonderful photographic picture. It throws upon the peach its blush, and steals from organic matter, at the same time, its color. It causes substances to form stable combinations, and produces forcible decomposition in others. It "paints the lily, and adds perfume to the violet"—it forms poison in one plant and nutrition in another, thus, by the effects of the same force, supplying the materials of death and of life.

Oh, wonderful indeed are those imponderable rays of light! Issuing from the sun in floods, they impinge upon us with the incomprehensible force derived from a velocity of 200,000 miles a second, and still our delicately sensitive nerves do not feel their contact! Winged messengers are they, bearing from that great source of life and motion that supply which is required to keep up an ever renewed creation here. A cessation of these celestial visitors for a very brief time, would bring upon our earth death and chaos, and at once destroy that beautiful order and harmony which prevails in every atom of this beautiful sphere.

To attempt to follow the modern chemist throughout the entire range of his discoveries, would involve so much space, that we recoil from the task. His has been a glorious work. Unlike the alchemist, he has felt only the impelling principle of lofty and disinterested ambition; that aspiration which strives to delve at the laws of nature, not for self-aggrandizement, but for the good of future generations. And future generations will bless him. Long after his spirit has left this earthly scene of his labor, posterity will recognize the bright truths he has invoked from matter, and call blessings down upon his memory.

Hereditary Influence.

BY CHARLES S. DAVIS.

[Continued.]

It has been noticed that children commonly share more largely of the mental faculties of the mother than of the Vol. II.—No. 9.

father, although instances have occurred where both father and mother have manifested no extraordinary mental powers, in whose offspring the mighty mind of some sleeping ancestor has roused anew, and exhibited, in a distant posterity, genius and wisdom, by a kind of intellectual resurrection. Dr. Gregory: "Children resemble not only one but both parents, thus proving that the rudiments (primordia) are derived equally from each parent, so that of the children who have a mixed resemblance, some may incline to the father, others more to the mother." * An anonymous writer in the N. Y. Eclectic Med. and Sur. Journal, for April, 1851, puts forth the idea that, in the generation of men, the soul is from the father, and the body from the mother; that the soul is in the seed of the father, and is clothed with a body from the mother; or, which amounts to the same, the spiritual which a man has, is from the father, and all the material from the mother; and he gives this illustration: "If we take an ordinary hen's egg that is good, and set it, there will in due time come forth the chick; but if we take the hens away from the rooster, although the hens will lay eggs the same, they will not hatch, because their vital principle furnished by the rooster is not there."

Galen thought that the embryo was formed by the substance of the male semen; and that the humor supplied by the female, served the mere purpose of nourishing. This recalls to mind the word of the poet:

"The vitalizing spark is from the sire,
The mother feeds and blows the living fire!"

Prometheus is said in Pagan story to have formed the human frame, and Minerva to have inspired it. Gen. Daumas, writing of "Les Chevaux de Sahara," says, "The experience of centuries has established that the essential parts of the organization, such as the bones, the tendons, the nerves, and the veins, are always derived from the stallion. The mare may give the color and some resemblance to her

^{*} Conspectus Med. Theor. Cap. xxi; § 782.

structure, but the principal qualities are due to the stallion."

In the transmission of deformities, such as extra toes, extra fingers, etc., sometimes the male, and sometimes the female, is shown to preponderate by the offspring inheriting the deformity of the male or the female. It is well said by Giron, that if the organization of the male was the only one which passed to the child, the child would resemble the father, as the fruit of a graft resembles the tree from which the graft was taken, and not at all the tree on which it was grafted.*

If the father bestows the nervous system, how are we to explain the notorious inferiority of the children of great men? The question may be asked, how a man of genius is ever produced, if the child is always the repetition of his parents? How can two parents of ordinary capacity produce a child of extraordinary powers? Says a writer: "both parents are always represented in the offspring: and although the male influence is seen to preponderate in one direction, and the female influence in another, yet this direction is by no means constant, is often reversed, and admits of no absolute reduction to a known formula. We cannot say absolutely, 'the male gives such organs;' we cannot even say, 'the male always preponderates in such or such a direction.' Both give all organs; sometimes one preponderates, sometimes the other. In one family we see children resembling the father, children resembling the mother, and children resembling both." +

The idea of Brouzet was, that the fact of all our organs being double, is owing to the concourse of both parents; so that the father will give one half, the mother the other half, the father the right, the mother the left side. ‡

Lavater, in his "Physiognomy," makes the following

^{*} De la Génération. P. 118.

[†] Westminster Review, July, 1856. P. 84.

^{‡ &}quot;Cette idée ferait présumer que notre corps est double, et que nous sommes composés de deux corps finis artistement adosés l'un à l'autre." Essais sur l'Education Medicinale des Enfans. Paris, 1754.

curious remarks: "I have had occasion to observe some infants immediately after their birth, and have found an astonishing resemblance between their profile and that of their father. A few days after, the resemblance almost entirely disappeared; the natural influence of the air and food, and probably the change of posture, has so altered the design of the face that you would have believed it a different individual. I afterwards saw two of these children die, the one at six weeks, and the other at four years of age—and about twelve hours after their death they completely recovered that profile which had struck me so much at their birth; only the profile of the dead child was, as might be expected, more strongly marked and more tense than that of the living. The third day their resemblance began to disappear. I once knew a man of fifty, another of seventy, both of whom, when alive, appeared to have no manner of resemblance to their children, and whose physiognomies belonged, if I may so express myself, to a totally different class. Two days after his death, the profile of one became perfectly conformed to that of his eldest son, and the image of the other father might be traced to the third of his sons. The likeness was quite as distinctly marked as that of the children who, immediately after their death, brought to my recollection the physiognomies which they had at their birth."

A close similarity exists between the form of the body, or the looks of a person, and the tone and characteristics of the mind. O. S. Fowler writing upon this subject says: "The form and looks of the body depend upon, and are goverend by, its structure; and this same structure is also as the organization of the brain and nervous system; and they are as the qualities of the mind. As is the form, so is the structure; and as is the structure, so are the mental qualities. And there are certain shapes of body, which invariably accompany certain traits of character, talents, and peculiarities. I believe, for example, that the original, inherent properties of the mind, assume particular shapes of body—those shapes best adapted to its manifestation; that, as a pepper seed and a kernel of corn, both planted together,

having the same soil, the same sun, rain, covering, and culture, each abstracts its particular and even opposite nature and nutriment from similar conditions, and the products of each assume the particular qualities of its parent from the same soil, sun, and showers, so different original, innate, mental qualities gather around themselves, both before and after birth, particular kinds of matter, and assume particular shapes, adapted to their respective natures; hence the endless diversity seen in countenances, motions, appearances, size, figure, strength, &c. of mankind." There is no doubt but that climate, soil, habits, customs, and modes of subsistence, in their endless diversity, produce visible and undeniable differences in features, countenances, and complexions, varieties of size and figure, natural propensity and moral feelings of men. Among the Greeks, Empedocles, Epicurus, and various other writers, endeavored to show that parents respectively contribute reproductive fluids which coöperate in generation, and stamp the fœtus male and female, as either is more copious; such was the opinion of many of the ancients, and Lucretius says:—

> Et muliebre oritur patrio de semine seclum; Maternoque mares existunt corpore creti. Semper enim partus duplici de semine constat; Atque, utri simile est magnis id, quodcumque creatur, Ejus habet plus parte equa quod cernere possis, Sive viram suboles, sive est muliebris origo.

"The sex of the offspring," says Draper, "is influenced by the relative age of the parents, the older parent giving a tendency to its own sex. In Europe, for every 106 male births, there are 100 female births." * According to Walker, one parent communicates the anterior part of the head, and the internal nutritive system, and the other parent the posterior part of the head, and the locomotive system. † He also mentions a family in which the father and mother had only two children, a son and a daughter, who each married into families not related to either party, and have had fifteen

^{*} Physiology, p. 594.

[†] On Intermarriage, p. 142.

daughters without one son, viz. eight by the son, and seven by the daughter.* In the Philosophical Transactions for 1787, mention is made of a gentleman who was the youngest of forty sons, all produced in succession, from three different wives, by one father, in Ireland. Dr. Josiah Curtis of Boston advances the following theories—"During the fecundating period of life the number of the sexes is very nearly equal, much nearer than at an earlier or later period. First marriages produce more male than female offspring; but second or subsequent marriages, especially of females, produce more female than male births. The sexes are much more equally divided in children born out of wedlock; although in most countries where such births are of comparatively common occurrence, there is a small excess of males; but, in Massachusetts, all facts hitherto given show an excess of females among illegitimate births." The proportion of the sexes in children varies according to the relative ages of the parents; thus males preponderate where the father is older than the mother, and the females are in an excess where the mother is older than the father; and the ratio of excess of either sex in birth follows, very accurately, the number of years that the age of the parent of the same sex exceeds that of the other parent. † Temporary vigor, excitement, languor, or debility, may exert a great influence upon the balance of parental power. The conditions of the parents during the year preceding the birth of a child, often determine its future destiny. During this period, either parent, by unusual exertion or excitement, may assume a preponderating influence; thus, in a case occurring within my own observation, the first child exhibited more of the characteristics of the father, the habits of the mother having been sedentary and quiet; but the second child exhibited a preponderance of the maternal traits, the mother having during the year before his birth, passed through scenes of high excitement which developed her energies.

During the nine months anterior to birth, the influence

^{*} Intermarriage, p. 229.

[†] Nashville Med. and Sur. Journal, vol. xii. p. 274.

of the constitutional development of both parents is continually operating in proportion to their relative energy of temperament, but many accidental causes may interfere, especially if the constitution of the mother is highly impressible. The circumstances in which she is placed, and the excitement which she undergoes, appear to be often daguerreotyped upon the organization of her offspring. The unborn infant is highly susceptible of nervanic influences, and may be influenced either directly or through the brain of the mother, or by any of the numerous mental and physical influences which affect the mother, even by those which operate entirely through the imagination. Parents, therefore, cannot feel too deeply their responsibility, since every act and circumstance transmits its influence to their offspring, and operates through an incalculable period of time.* The conditions of the mother during pregnancy not only leave their impress upon the child's mind, but they also affect its form of body, so as to produce marks, excrescences, extra limbs, deformities, and even monstrosities. The question whether the state of the mother produces marks, etc., has long divided the medical world, and there is no question concerning hereditary influence, about which there has been so much written, many physicians deciding against the well-authenticated facts which have been presented to their attention. Baptista Porta, in his "Physiog. cælestis," says, "if a great-bellied woman see a hare, her child will often have a hair lip." + Garcæus, in de Judiciis Geniturarum, Cap. 33, relates of one Thomas Nickell, born in Brandeburg, 1551, "That he went reeling' and staggering all the days of his life, as he would fall to the ground, because his mother, being great with child, saw a drunken man reeling in the street." Martin Wenrichius tells of a man he saw in Wittenburg, who looked like a carcass; upon asking him the cause, he replied, "his mother, when she bore him in her womb, saw a carcass, by chance, and was so sore affrighted by it, that ex eo fætus ei assimila-

^{*} Buchanan's Soul of Man. Vol. vi. p. 256.

^{†&}quot;Ex leporum intuitu plerique infantes edunt bifido superiore labello."—Physiog. Cælestis, lib. v. c. 2.

tus—from a ghastly impression the child was like it." Says Gregory, "There are many diseases or disorders which are born with us, and yet not congenital, namely, while the fœtus was in the womb, the mother may have received severe injury, etc."* Some persons have had ague before they were born. The fœtus in utero is liable to pulmonary tubercles, hydrocephalus, acute inflammation of the peritoneum, small-pox, Dr. Russell, in his "History of Aleppo," mentions a case of a woman who had tertian ague, which attacked her every other day, but on alternate days, when she was well and free, she felt the child shake, so that they both had tertian ague, only their paroxysms happened on alternate days. A writer in the London Lancet, for January, 1861, p. 43, mentions a case in which an impression conveyed to the uterus has been retained and reproduced after a lapse of eighteen months; and argues that the impression may still reappear in future pregnancies. Believers in Animal Magnetism account for these impressions as follows: "Particular things in nature, and characteristics in men, have each their respective forms, adapted to their character, and which they always assume; and secondly, that the feelings of the mother are imparted to the child by means of magnetism, which is the agent or principle of life, or rather, life itself; that, therefore, the condition of the mother's mind, that is, her magnetism, her life's blood and spirit, are imparted to the child, and cause it to assume the shape peculiar to those things which have magnetized the mother, or whose magnetism the mother has imbibed." Physiology teaches, and observation shows, that parents in a great degree transmit to their offspring their own mental and personal peculiarities; whether the unnatural and immoderate desires and appetites which arise during gestation, should be suppressed or indulged, is still a subject for debate. Dame nature, when allowed to pursue her own peaceful ways, produces harmonious and beautiful objects; but being thwarted in her course, she may run into the wildest freaks.

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^{*.} Conspectus I. xlix.

On the Anatomy, and some of the Surgical Diseases of the Urethra.

BY EDWIN FREEMAN, M. D.,

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[Continued.]

The prostatic urethra is seriously affected by "hypertrophy of the prostate gland" which surrounds it. I mean, by this, the slow and gradual enlargement of that organ that occurs to those who have passed the fifty-fifth year, or thereabout; which is not the result of any inflammatory action, but is due to an increased formation of the natural tissues of the prostate. It is not common to all who have passed that age, but is estimated to occur to about thirty-four per-cent. of men at, or about, the age of sixty years. This enlargement may occur in different forms, four of which are common, and three are uncommon: 1st, there may be general enlargement equally of both lateral and median lobes; 2d, general enlargement of the gland, but the median lobe the largest; 3d, general enlargement, but the right lobe predominating; 4th, general enlargement, and the left lobe in excess. the three less common forms, in the 1st, the lateral lobes only are enlarged; 2d, the anterior commissure alone; and 3d, the lateral lobes and anterior commissure. most important result that this enlargement produces is obstruction to the flow of urine. In a few exceptional cases, the opposite condition is produced, and the patient is unable to retain his urine, it running off as fast as it enters the bladder. This latter condition is sometimes the result of the retention of urine, producing dilatation of the bladder, and subsequently of its neck, the bladder remaining partly full from loss of power to contract; or the neck may be pressed open by the enlarged lateral lobes being pressed apart by the enlarged median lobe, it pressing as a wedge upwards between them, and allowing the urine to escape. The obstruction to the passage of urine, before mentioned, is owing to the narrowing of the canal of the urethra by pressure upon it of one or more of the hypertrophied lobes of the gland. When the lateral lobes are enlarged, they increase the vertical as well as the antero-posterior diameter of this portion of the canal, as they grow in either direction, while the transverse diameter is diminished by their encroachment. The canal is rendered more or less tortuous also as one lobe or the other is enlarged. Thus if the median increase in size, the direction of the floor of the prostatic urethra will be upwards and backwards, and then nearly directly upwards, as if surmounting a step at the orifice of the bladder. If, in connection with that, the right or left lobe be enlarged singly at the anterior portion, the direction of the canal will be backwards and upwards and to the left or right, and then the prominence of the middle lobe as before. Those possible changes should always be borne in mind in the effort to introduce a catheter when the prostate gland is enlarged.

Symptoms.—This disease is not usually recognized by the patient in its early stage, there being nothing unusual in the act of micturition, or any derangement that would lead him to suspect such a condition. Suddenly, however, an exposure to cold, &c., may cause a complete retention of urine, and this may be the first announcement of the existence of prostatic enlargement. When this is not the case, there may be noticeable a gradual diminution of the force with which the urine is ejected, or the person may have to wait some time before a full stream is fairly established. The desire to urinate is more frequent than natural, the relief is less complete, and is frequently followed very soon again by the Pains in the thighs, testicles, and groins are same desire. complained of, and a sense of weight and uneasiness about the perineum, rectum, and hypogastrium is felt. The straining in the efforts to void the urine may cause hemorrhoids, and a protrusion of the mucous membrane or prolapsus of the rectum may result. As the disease advances, the constant aching or gnawing sensation behind the pubes indicates chronic distension or inflammation of the bladder. are soreness and smarting in the direction of the urethra, and a shooting pain extending to the glans penis. There may also be occasionally a slight muco-purulent discharge from the urethra. Owing to the growth of the prostate upwards,

the depth of the bas-fond of the bladder is increased, and the tightening of the orifice being too strong to be overcome completely by the contractile force of that viscus, it is never emptied of all its urine. That remaining, mixing with the mucus of the bladder, decomposes and becomes the source of increased disease of the parts, the effect of which may be continued up the ureters and involve the kidneys, to the increased distress and danger of the patient; or the decomposing urine may give rise to the formation of calculous matter, generally triple phosphates, which may be mixed with pus, mucus, and urine, forming a thick discharge, with a pungent, ammoniacal, and often fetid odor.

Albumen may be present in the urine if the disease extend to the kidneys, or blood from the urinary passages.

Diagnosis.—It is not well to depend on the mere apparent symptoms of the disease, but an examination should be made of the condition of the prostate gland, by the sound in the urethra, and the finger in the rectum, with the patient lying on his back. The first thing to notice with the finger is whether the disease be general or partial? affecting one or both lobes? and to what extent? and what is the nature and form of the enlargement? Secondly, is the tumor hard or soft, or unequally so in places? Also what is the condition of the bladder behind it? which may be ascertained by pressing upwards behind the gland and tapping with the other hand on the hypogastric region: if the bladder be distended with urine the wave-like impulse will be felt. Thirdly, we should feel for the part of the gland the most tender, either to the right or left or in the middle. Fourthly, the end of the sound should be felt for, to ascertain the thickness of the intervening tissues, if the sound shall have been previously introduced. By the urethra, if a full-sized catheter has been introduced, for the distance of eight or nine inches easily, and no urine flows; and if the handle then has to be more than usually depressed, approaching the horizontal line, there is good reason for pronouncing it prostatic hypertrophy. A catheter with a curve the size of one third of a circle, and of greater length, should then be introduced, which

will probably pass more easily; and the direction of the handle should be noticed, which will be opposite to that of the beak, by which the lateral or other curvatures of the canal may thus be ascertained. The best instrument for ascertaining the exact condition of the prostatic urethra and neck of the bladder is a solid or hollow sound, curved about like the common lithotrite.

Diagnosis of the affection from stricture, vesical calculus, tumors of the bladder, atony or inertia of the coats of the bladder, and paralysis may be made thus. In stricture the stream of urine is small, but the force not much diminished, while the contrary is the case in hypertrophy, the stream being quite small. In stricture the obstruction is encountered before six inches of the instrument have disappeared, always before it arrives at the prostatic urethra. In hypertrophy the obstruction is not met until the instrument has passed eight or nine inches, and if it pass into the bladder, the handle has to be depressed between the legs of the patient. Stricture makes its appearance before middle life; hypertrophy in advanced life. The appearance of a little blood in urinating after exercising, is more nearly a pathognomonic sign of calculus of the bladder, than any other; but the sudden stopping of the stream of urine, and pain at the close of micturition, together with a persistent discharge of mucus and pus, should excite suspicions of its presence. Tumors, especially villous, may be suspected from the sanious urine containing flocculi and sabulous matter. Atony of the bladder may be judged of by the diminished power to expel the urine, even after the catheter is introduced, and may be the result of over-stretching or other causes. Paralysis is generally associated with paralysis of the lower part of the body, from injury to the spinal cord, and the patient has no power over the bladder after the catheter is introduced, the urine being only expelled by the pressure of parts lying around.

TREATMENT.—If there be retention of urine and long-standing distension of the bladder, that viscus should not be completely emptied at once, but by increasing the quantity withdrawn each time: if it be not of long standing, it may be

removed at once. The patient should be then instructed in the use of the catheter, which he should use standing with his back to the wall, once or twice a day, the instrument being either silver or flexible, according to the readiness with which it can be introduced, the difficulty being to overcome the tortuosities of the canal or to raise the beak above the middle lobe. The patient should be put under the influence of full doses of Gelseminum, with moderate doses of iodide of potassium. The former agent has an excellent effect on the whole urinary track, being relaxing and antiinflammatory, it tends to overcome the rigid condition of the os vesicæ, and will often enable the patient to do what otherwise he could not do without the catheter. The Potassii iod. is used for its power in reducing the hypertrophied condition of the gland. The ext. Conii mac. with ext. Phytolaccæ and a small portion of iodine, will also be found useful, and may be combined with ext. Nucis vomicæ, if there be atony of the bladder from over-distension. Teas may be administered freely of the Altha off., Uva Ursi, Buchu, Pareira Brav., underground stem of Triticum Repens or Ulmus fulv. for the purpose of allaying inflammation or irritation as well as catarrh of the bladder. Too great acidity of the urine may be corrected by a free use of the citrate or acetate of potassa; an alkaline condition may be changed by the use of Benzoic acid. Quinine and iron should be administered for its general tonic effect on the system. All gloomy reflections upon his condition and its consequences, should be dispelled from the mind of the patient, his habits should be well regulated, and, ever avoiding all excesses, his diet should be plain, substantial and nourishing, being careful never to eat excessively, and to be extremely moderate in the use of tea, coffee, and stimulating drinks. The skin should be kept warm with flannel and comfortable clothing, and in good condition by frequent bathing and thorough rubbing. Counter irritation with the irritating plaster may be applied to the thighs and lumbo-sacral region if deemed beneficial. Attention to such treatment will produce marked relief of the severe symptoms of this disease of the prostatic

urethra, and a perseverance in it will, in many cases, give permanent relief.

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[In be continued.]

Favorite Remedies and Recipes.

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[Continued from the Review for December.]

APERIENTS AND CATHARTICS.

No. 5.—Husband's Magnesia.—The great bulk of the officinal calcined magnesia makes it objectionable, not only because of the size of the dose, but also because it is, in rare instances, liable to form concretions in the bowels. The heavy magnesia of Husband, of Philadelphia, and that of Ellis, of the same city, as well as that of Henry, of England, are among the most eligible and excellent cathartics. These several manufactures of magnesia are said to be equally good, but we have always used that of Mr. Husband, and can therefore speak of it from the evidence of personal experirience.

Magnesia is mostly used, in both domestic and professional practice, as an antacid and laxative, and as such all our medical friends are doubtless well acquainted with its efficacy; but we regard Husband's magnesia as one of our most efficient cathartics. In severe cases of bilious colic we have uniformly resorted to it, during the last three years. If the agonizing distress of this disease be accompanied with vomiting, along with the evidence of a foul stomach, we would first give, at once, a lobelia emetic, to clear the stomach and to relax the spasm of the bowels. The stomach being relieved and the spasm relaxed by the lobelia, and by divided doses of dioscorea villosa, we would then, if the vomiting and nausea continued, apply a sinapism to the epi-

gastrium. If the nausea be not very soon relieved, we would quiet the irritability of the stomach by a small dose of morphia, and, in a short time, commence giving Husband's magnesia, in drachm doses, in a little water, every hour. Let the bowels be packed in cloths wrung out of hot water, and repeat this fomentation often; or, use a fomentation of hops, or one of arnica flowers. Of course, in such cases, relaxing and stimulating injections by the rectum are not to be omitted; and we regard an injection of thoroughwort tea, to which a suitable quantity of the tincture of lobelia and capsicum has been added, to be among the most efficacious. But we depend mostly, in such cases, upon the efficacy of Husband's magnesia to open the bowels. It is not at all unpleasant to take, it relieves the nausea, and is seldom vomited. Its action is, of course, greatly promoted by lemonade, and we allow the patient to drink frequently of this excellent anti-nauseant. In this disease, magnesia is less frequently vomited than almost any other remedy; and it is more certain to secure free and quick discharges than any other agent we have ever used.

This agent is also an excellent cathartic in many cases requiring a thorough cleansing of the stomach and bowels. It is excellent in the first stages of fever, correcting the secretions of the entire alimentary canal; and yet it is so slightly irritating as to make it scarcely objectionable in the full stages of typhoid fever—a disease in which all prudent medical men are very careful in the use of cathartics. As an ordinary cathartic, this drachm dose may be repeated once in four or six hours, if the first dose does not operate sufficiently.

As a hydragogue cathartic, it will be found of much value in dropsy. It does not weaken the patient, like jalap and cream of tartar, or like podophyllin and cream of tartar, and yet it sometimes reduces the anasarca more rapidly than either of these preparations. In many cases of dropsy, practitioners have found it almost impossible to repeat cathartic doses of podophyllin, on account of the nausea and irritability of the stomach produced by this efficient remedy;

but this magnesia can be used every second day for a long time, if desired, and it rapidly carries off the dropsical deposit, without producing nausea, griping, or debility. Dropsy dependent upon extensive organic disease of the liver or other organs, is not unfrequently incurable, and can only be temporarily relieved; but, when it is curable, it frequently requires the use of several remedies before it yields to treatment; and, from the few cases in which we have used this remedy in dropsy, we esteem it as one of the most efficient, as it certainly is one of the most agreeable of all medicines. In this disease give to an adult one drachm, in a little water, every two or four hours, until it operates thoroughly, drinking freely of lemonade between the doses.

From recent conversations with medical men, we infer that but few of them are accustomed to give this agent in bilious colic, or as an ordinary cathartic, or in dropsy; and its use in these cases is so valuable that we have made these suggestions in regard to a remedy with all the uses of which, at first sight, it would seem that every medical man would be entirely familiar.

No. 6.—Compound Powder of Jalap.—Take Jalap, Spearmint leaves and Senna, of each, pulverized, two ounces. Mix intimately. Dose—One teaspoonful, in hot water, sweetened; and repeat in four hours, if the first dose does not operate.

This is far more palatable than the old formula for the "Anti-bilious Physic." It is one of the most thorough and certain of cathartics. It cleanses the stomach almost as effectually as an emetic, and it rarely gripes. It acts well and kindly upon the whole alimentary canal. In the very loaded and foul condition of the stomach and bowels which we often find in the forming stage of fevers, this preparation is invaluable. If used in the exanthematous fevers, or in typhoid fever, let the infusion be taken without the sediment, that there may be no danger of irritation of the intestinal canal. The above formula will be found as agreeable to children as it is efficient; and, in many instances, it entirely supersedes the necessity of an emetic.

PERISCOPE.

The International Medical Congress of Paris.

The following are the "Statutes and Programme" of the International Medical Congress, which is to be held in Paris, this year. We have no doubt but this will be largely attended by American Physicians and Surgeons:

- ART. 1. A Medical International Congress will be opened on the 16th of August, 1867, under the auspices of His Excellency, the Minister of Public Instruction.
- ART. 2. The Congress, exclusively scientific, will be in session two weeks.
- ART. 3. The Congress will be composed of original, home, and foreign members.

The original members shall be the French physicians, who become such on application to the Committee on Organization; the subscription fee will be fixed at 20 francs.

The adjunct members shall be those foreign physicians who communicate their willingness to attend, to the Secretary-General (Doctor Jacoup, No. 4 Rue Drouot, Paris). They shall be exempt from all pecuniary contribution.

- ART. 4. The members of the Congress, both home and foreign, shall alone have the right to take part in the discussions.
 - ART. 5. The work of the Congress shall consist in:
- a. Communications on questions proposed by the Committee.
 - b. Communications on subjects foreign to the programme.
- ART. 6. The Committee have decided on the following programme:
- I. Pathological anatomy and physiology of tubercle. Tuberculization in different countries, and its influence on general mortality.
- II. General accidents which cause death after surgical operations.
- III. It is possible to propose to the various governments any efficient measures to restrain the propagation of venereal diseases.

- IV. The influence of the ordinary alimentation peculiar to different countries on the production of certain diseases.
- V. The influence of climate, race, and different conditions of life on menstruation in different countries.
- VI. The acclimatization of European races in warm countries.
- VII. On entozoa and entophytes which may be developed in man.
- ART. 7. Members, both home and foreign, who desire to make a communication on any of the questions of the programme, or upon any other subject, are requested to address their communication to the General Secretary three weeks or sooner (July 26th) before the opening of the Congress. The Committee will decide as to the time and order in which they shall be brought before the Congress.
- ART. 8. The sessions of the Congress will take place daily, Sunday excepted. They will be held alternately during the day, and in the evening. The sessions during the day will last from 2 to 6 o'clock, P. M., the evening sessions from 8 to 10 o'clock.
- ART. 9. No question shall occupy more than one session, and the order of business will be regulated as follows: 1. Lecture on the questions of the programme; 2. Discussion; 3. If time permits, communications of miscellaneous essays. The evening sessions will be exclusively devoted to these.
- ART. 10. A maximum of twenty minutes will be accorded to each reading.
- ART. 11. At the first meeting the Congress will nominate its bureau, which shall consist of a President, Vice-Presidents, a General Secretary, and Recording Secretaries.
- ART. 12. After the conclusion of the Congress, the Committee on Organization will resume its functions, to proceed with the publication of the Transactions of the Congress.
- ART. 13. All *Memoirs* read before the Congress shall be handed over to the General Secretary after each session. They are the property of the Congress.
- ART. 14. Students of medicine will receive Cards of admission, but they cannot take part in the deliberations.

All communications must be sent to M. Jacoud, Sec. No. 4 Rue Drouot, Paris.

EDITORIAL.

Eclecticism.

THE editor of the DRUGGIST'S CIRCULAR, in an able article, has given us his views upon the subject of Eclecticism. They are in the main correct, but upon some points not so. The Circular takes the ground that it would be a serious innovation to discard many remedies, because of their having become venerable. This position would preclude advancement, and would consequently be antagonistic to the precepts of Eclecticism as we expound them. If this axiom were adhered to, then, instead of the beautiful facts of combustion as we understand them, we would still be dreaming over the rhapsodies of phlogiston. We would still be applying the hot iron to wounds and the fatal lancet to the depletion of that fluid which is vitality itself. It was but a brief time ago—as the editor of the CIRCULAR will perhaps recollect—that the lancet was universally applied. Will the editor point us out a physician who now uses it? If so, it is doubtful whether the latter will acknowledge it. use of calomel was universal a few years ago, but it has gone into disuse considerably of late. This is the case, likewise, with several other obnoxious metals, which were considered a few years ago as indispensable. It is to the spread of eclecticism that these enlightened changes are due. This school were the first to prove that other remedies exist whose action upon the liver is fully as energetic and beneficial as calomel, while those dreadful after-results termed "mercurial diseases" are avoided. It was through the writings and teachings, and successful practice of eclectic physicians, that bloodletting has gone into disuse. But we must not attribute it all to eclectic influence, for, although they were the pioneers in their denunciation of the lancet, it was to the influence of the spread of a more correct knowledge of the important office the blood subserves, that this deadly practice was abandoned; for such is the perversity of old school physicians, and such the fatal effects of prejudice, that the teachings of all the enlightened Eclectics in this country would

have made no favorable impression upon them, had not the progress of chemistry—especially in its relations to physiology—driven them to the abandonment of the lancet. This same progress of chemistry has taught the Eclectics that there is great danger in administering metals which do not form a component part of the human system. It has been ascertained by Eclectics, and has never been disproved, nor ever can be, that after the administration of any obnoxious metal (or metal not forming a part of the system), it combines with the tissues of the body, forming an insoluble compound which remains there for life, being a constant source of irritation and creating those phases of maladies termed "mercurial diseases." this is the result of the administration of these metals, may be rendered absolutely certain from the fact that they may be electrolyzed from the system. If these metals remained in the system as metals per se they could not be electrolyzed; but in order that they shall obey the dictates of the voltaic current, they necessarily must be in Eclectics have electrolyzed mercury and a state of combination. other metals out of the system after having remained there for twelve years. These and other cases have been published by us years ago. Why did they not elicit a response from the old-school jour-Does any one suppose that if these old-school doctors had tried the experiment, and had got the negative result of non-success, they would have preserved their characteristic reticence? Nay, it was because they did succeed that their silence upon the subject is so profound. One old-school physician, more philosophical and honest than his brethren, wrote to Prof. Sanders (the discoverer of the electrolysis of metals from the system), for information upon the subject. He duly received the information sought, tried the experiments, succeeded with several metals, and published his successful results in the *Indianapolis* (Indiana) Journal. Since then, the French Academy have found these Eclectic discoveries correct. They have announced them as such—and still allopathy administers these noxious metals in the face of these astounding facts!

Eclecticism, therefore, as we expound it, consists in subjecting every theory, and its practical results, to rigid scrutiny, assisted by the present advanced state of science. If a medicine possess a good quality—but combined with it, some fearfully pernicious ones,—and if another medicine be discovered which has all its virtues, but not its faults, we discard it, and adopt the latest one discovered. This is the case with calomel. That good and enlightened physicians have

used it is true, but that is no reason why it should not be discarded if a better remedy can be substituted for it. Thus the CIRCULAR will perceive that Eclectics are not the medical iconoclasts it would believe. They do not tear down through wantonness, but before they attempt to overthrow they first erect a superior structure. Without organizing themselves into societies, and forming by-laws which hedge in all inquiry and experiment, they leave every one free to do just as his judgment dictates. They throw no proscription around the man who advocates a new remedy, or the overthrow of an old The student of their Colleges is taught "to try all things and hold fast that which is good." He is environed by no resolutions pledging himself to return his Diploma, if he dare to deviate from the dogmas laid down by his preceptors;—but free and untramelled he issues from our medical halls—a slave to no creeds, admitting no tyrants in medicine, and with the true American spirit of independence flung about him. He is enjoined to rely upon his own judgment; to lay all professional prejudices aside, but, irrespective of what old Medicine may say, to use those appliances which experience may prove the best.

Eclectic physicians, therefore, claim with truth, that they are in advance of Allopathy. They do not claim that they are more educated than their old-school brethren (although equally so), but they claim, that being free of enslaving creeds, and of professional prejudice, they are more fully prepared to advance, and to tread in the van of scientific progress. The founders were not men who set themselves up to dispute the creeds and practice of the old school, without sufficient qualifications for that task. They were graduates of old schools; had spent many years in practising upon the old system, and were only driven to abandon it, after experience had taught them that to practise medicine upon these principles was little less than criminal. Hence rose Eclecticism.

As it has been denied strenuously that the metals will form stable compounds with organic matter, we think it advisable to set this question at rest, by adducing some of these combinations. There are three bodies belonging to the zinc series of organic compounds known. They are zinc-methyl, zinc-ethyl, and zinc-amyl. In these substances the metal zinc is combined respectively with two molecules of the radical methyl (C₂ H₂), ethyl (C₄ H₅), and amyl (C₁₀ H₁₁). These substances are very stable. Magnesia combines in the same manner as the zinc. Aluminum and glucinium

likewise form with these organic radicals stable compounds. is the same likewise with tin, which forms a greater variety of compounds than either of the above. Bismuth forms with organic matters very stable compounds; also lead, whose compounds are very stable. Mercury is the most prone of any metallic substance to combine with organic matter. It forms a variety of these organico-In fact its affinity for organic matter is metallic substances. greater than either of the above metals, and it appears to combine at a lower temperature than the others, forming at the same time Antimony forms very stable compounds more stable combinations. Equally stable organic compounds have with organic matter. been formed likewise by the metals cadmium and arsenic. Tellurium has also been combined with organic matter. These are all prepared by union of the organic radical, in statu nascenti, with the metal. By observing the above, it will be perceived that late discoveries have revealed the fact, that metals possess a very powerful affinity for, and tendency to, combine with organic matter, and to form combinations which, for stability, are not surpassed by any purely organic compounds. These facts, together with the fact that metals can be electrolyzed from the system after having lain there for a series of years, are of startling import. They prove, beyond disputation, that those metals which do not form a component part of the body, are prone to form, at a temperature not over 98° F., very stable compounds with its tissues: that these compounds possess such stability, that all the efforts of vitality, renewed unceasingly for a series of years, cannot disrupt them: and that it requires the force of a very powerful voltaic current to effect this. And we are struck with one fact worthy of notice—that only those metals which do not belong to the system, are prone to form these metallic compounds. Is not this sufficiently significant, or will Allopathy never learn!

We trust that the learned editor of the *Druggist's Circular* will reflect upon these things, when we dare to predict that his next article upon Eclecticism will be a very able and useful one.

"A Remarkable Case of Gunshot Wound."

A CERTAIN Dr. Jas. S. Athon, of Indianapolis, Ind., has reported what is called "a very remarkable case" of gunshot wound of the bladder, in a boy nine years old. We notice this to call attention to

the spleen displayed by him against a brother member of the medical profession; and to show that, while he pretends to be of the "regular faculty," he displays, in his report, a series of inconsistencies and lack of proper anatomical knowledge, not surprising to those who know how superficial he is. It is surprising to us, however, that a journal of the pretensions and high standing of the American Journal of Medical Sciences, should transfer such a report, verbatim et literatim, to its pages. The doctor (Jan. No., 1867) says: "The wound was produced by a pistol ball, which entered along the posterior margin of the tuberosity of the ischium, and passed into the bladder, near its fundus, coming out an inch and a half or two inches above the pubes, immediately in the linea alba." "The shock of the injury almost immediately prostrated the little fellow, and he was given up The urine at once escaped, mixed with blood, from both orifices, and the feces passed away involuntarily." * * * "A physician was called in, who, after examination, pronounced the wound necessarily mortal, but gave something to ease pain. An eclectic physician was called, who plunged the largest sized silver catheter into the urethra, and, with vigorous efforts, succeeded in thrusting the instrument, not into the bladder, but into the membranous portion of the urethra, when the screams and contortions of the patient were so piteous, that he was compelled to abandon the operation." It is here very evident that Dr. A. has made a "vigorous effort" to give birth to a mountain, but only brought forth the smallest kind of a mouse, so dirty that his fingers must still stink of it. If the doctor will read his own article, a little further on, he will find, that he admits that the first thing to be done, was to try and pass a catheter into the bladder, and that afterwards he was so convinced of the necessity of it, that he introduced it "every other day for a month, and every time the instrument was forced further until it entered the bladder; but he took care to give chloroform to keep down the "screams and contortions" of his little patient. But there is one thing that requires special notice, and that is, the profound anatomical knowledge displayed by the doctor. He says that the eclectic "thrust the instrument, not into the bladder, but into the membranous portion of the urethra." We would like to ask if the membranous portion of the urethra is not a portion of that canal leading to the bladder? and how he could get the catheter into the bladder, unless via the membranous portion of the urethra? The eclectic stopped, of course, as he should have done, in the membranous urethra, when he found that he could not readily

pass the instrument into the bladder without causing excessive pain. It seems that after this, a member of the "regular faculty" was called in, and pronounced the patient "in articulo mortis;" of course he being regular, his diagnosis and prognosis must not be doubted. Dr. A. should inform us how many days he was in that condition before he was called in, which great event occurred on the tenth day from the injury. He says, "the feces were evacuated in bed and removed as best they could, by means of cloths and water." We are glad to learn that some of the "regular faculty" have so far overcome their prejudices, as to use water for some purposes. But mark, there was involuntary passing of the feces, and the patient was "in articulo mortis," and the first thing he gave was castor oil. I suppose, if the boy had been dead, he would have been ordered to take oil. He ordered him Quinine and Hyosciamus, and on the third day the pus and urine were passing from the wound in the same quantities, and the patient had had some ease. The doctor now begins to understand the necessity of passing a catheter to the bladder, to get the urine through the right channel, as the wound will never heal unless this is done. So he tries the operation of forcing it in, having put the patient under the influence of chloroform. He, however, had to withdraw it, as the eclectic did, for there is no doubt there was a stricture of the urethra, from the wound. He says that no obstruction was met until the instrument "came into the vicinity of the membranous portion of the urethra." Why not speak definitely, Doctor, as though you know where it is, and say, came to the membranous portion of the urethra. Notwithstanding all this difficulty and pain, he says that the catheter was introduced every other day for a month, each time forcing it further, until it entered the bladder. Thus, he had at last to resort to the same measures that he blamed the eclectic for doing promptly, before the inflammation had rendered the parts indurated and difficult to be penetrated. * * * He says further, "the frequent introduction of the catheter had blunted the sensibilities as well as enlarged the urethra." Why, then, blame the eclectic for introducing it once? "The urine and pus now began to escape from this orifice, which, notwithstanding the injury received in its membranous section, retained the fluid in the bladder until voided by the voluntary act of the patient." Who ever heard of the urethra being called an orifice? or of its retaining the fluid (urine) in the bladder? We would inform the doctor that the bladder has a sphincter vesicæ, which is supposed to close its neck, and relax at the will

of the person, and by means of that the urine is retained. It is very evident that in trying to make out malpractice of the eclectic, Dr. A. has only developed a degree of ignorance on his part that is by no means excusable in one of the "regular faculty," while all other journals, in their haste to make out a case, lower themselves by conniving at his ignorance. Is this the same Dr. Athon who was hoping to become governor of Indiana, if the loyal Governor Morton had accidentally ceased to live, at the time of the celebrated conspiracy at Indianapolis?

NEWS AND MISCELLANY.

MASSACHUSETTS ECLECTIC MEDICAL SOCIETY.

[Reported for American Eclectic Medical Review.]

The sixth semi-annual meeting of this society was held at the Revere House, Boston, on the 9th of January, at 10 A. M., W. Bass, M. D., President, in the chair. The meeting was fully attended, and was interesting in all its proceedings.

The records of the annual meeting were read by the Secretary, Dr.

Miles, and approved.

Dr. J. S. Andrews, of Taunton, presented an essay on "The Hepatic Secretions;" Dr. Skinner, of Stoneham, an essay on "Eclecticism," and Dr. Aldrich, of Fall River, an essay on "Epidemic Dysentery."

These papers were severally referred to the Publication Committee.

The following was presented by Dr. R. W. Geddes:

RESOLVED, That a committee of three be appointed to investigate and report the best solvent or solvents, aside from alcohol, with the view of substituting the same for that costly article in the manufacture of our remedies. Adopted. Committee—Drs. R. W. Geddes, G. W. Skinner, and Prof. P. W. Allen.

Edson C. Chamberlin, M. D.; Otis Humphrey, M. D., of Boston, and Edwin Schofield, M. D., of Worcester, passed the required examination,

and were admitted to membership in the Society.

At 2½ o'clock P. M. the Society adjourned for dinner, which was partaken of at the Revere House, Dr. Underwood presiding, Divine blessing being invoked by Rev. Dr. Skinner.

At 31 the Society again reassembled.

Dr. Humphrey, of Boston, reported a case of labor very long protracted from a scirrhus os which was much thickened. A suppository of ext. lobelia, grs. iv., was introduced within the rectum; dilatation soon took place, and the labor terminated favorably to both mother and child.

Dr. Burnham detailed a case of post mortem where the patient died of aneurism of the aorta. The patient had been able to keep about most of the time till recently; raised himself in bed an hour previous to his decease; and yet the eleventh and twelfth vertebræ, with their intervertebral cartilages, were nearly destroyed.

The Society adjourned at 5 P. M.

The next annual meeting will be held in Boston on the first Thursday in June next.

BOSTON DISTRICT ECLECTIC MEDICAL SOCIETY. [Reported for American Eclectic Medical Review.]

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THE sixth annual meeting of the Boston District Eclectic Medical Society was held at the office of Dr. Joseph Jackson on Monday evening, January 7th, at 7½ o'clock, Dr. Jackson, President, in the chair.

The records of the previous meeting were read and approved, and the

records of the last annual meeting were also read.

Dr. S. Ames, Treasurer, made his annual report, which shows the finances of the Society to be in an excellent condition.

The following gentlemen were elected officers for the ensuing year:

Joseph Jackson, M. D., President.

W. E. Wright, M. D., Vice-President.

C. E. Miles, M. D., Secretary. S. C. Ames, M. D., Treasurer.

Board of Examiners—Drs. W. E. Underwood, A. E. McDonald, H. G. Barrows.

Drs. J. W. Towne and H. G. Newton were proposed for membership in the Society.

Dr. S. C. Ames was appointed essayist for the next meeting.

Dr. Ames reported a case where a child born at full time showed that it had small-pox while in utero, the mother having had the disease in the

seventh month of her pregnancy.

Dr. Miles detailed a case where he had aided in holding a post mortem, where the patient had died of spinal disease and lumbar abscess on the right side. About six weeks previous to the death of the patient a barberry had passed out of the abscess, and there had been liquid fæces found in the same place. This abscess had no connection with the spine. The appendix vermiformis was found turned posteriorly on itself for about half an inch at its free extremity, and resting near the outer edge of the abscess. At this point of the appendix an aperture was found of the size of a crow's quill, through which the fæces had passed. On the inner extremity of the left thigh, about three inches below Pourpart's ligament, there was an opening some three inches in length, which had discharged freely. This connected with the spine by a large sinus. The superior surface of the promontory of the sacrum, the inferior and superior face of the last lumbar and the inferior face of the next lumbar vertebræ, with their intervertebral cartilages, were nearly destroyed.

The Society now sat down to an excellent collation, prepared by Dr. Jackson, and after the enjoyment of a social hour, adjourned to meet at

the office of Dr. W. E. Underwood on the first Friday in June.

WHAT IS THE AMERICAN ECLECTIC SYSTEM OF MEDICINE?

There are few who have any accurate conception of the American Eclectic System of Medicine, excepting those of the medical profession who have studied and carried out the new system. It is not a special, exclusive theory of medicine, based upon one principle, requiring a certain degree of fixedness and uniformity of doctrine in its followers. It is not a perfect and finished system of science, like geometry and arithmetic, embracing a certain number of truths which can neither be modified nor increased. It would be but folly and dogmatism to claim such perfection for any medical system. It is not a systematic routine of practice, which may be learned like the alphabet, and adhered to forever. It is

not, in any sense, a finished, fixed, or stationary system. On the contrary, it is a system of progress. It is not a system governed by any one dominant idea, theory, or measure. On the contrary, it is a comprehensive system which tolerates all ideas, and recognizes all contributions of science, as well as all the principles of healing which legitimately belong to the healing art.

It is, therefore, not a scientific system, in the sense in which that term is used by system-makers, theorists, and routinists, but is rather a comprehensive mass of science, the central principle of which is benevolence, and which embraces everything connected with the healing art, as the solar system embraces not only the greater planets, but the asteroids and minor bodies which revolve around the sun.

A truly eclectic medical mind should be like a cyclopedia, embracing the whole circle of medical science, and not like the systematic treatises put forth by different schools—a mere presentation of the views of a particular portion of the profession.

It has been the fashion to designate the medical parties by names ending in the termination -path or -pathy, which refers to disease. Thus, those who treat diseases by remedies having an analogous character, and capable of producing symptoms similar to the disease treated, are called Homœopaths. Those who disregard the Homœopathic law, and use remedies producing effects different from the diseases to which they are applied, have been called Allopaths; while those who disregard the question of analogy or difference, and treat diseases by water alone, are called Hydropaths.

The Eclectic physician is not an Allopath, for he cares nothing about the question of differences or similitude, if his remedies are capable of curing disease. Although he uses water freely, he does not confine himself to the water-treatment. On the contrary, he claims the right to use everything that is useful, whenever, in his judgment, it will benefit his patient.

There are three principal relations which medicine may sustain to disease: that of resemblance, as when we hold a part which has been burned to the fire to cure it; that of specific antagonism, or Antipathy, as when we apply ice or cold water to a burned surface; and that of general difference, which may be illustrated by the application of spirits of turpentine to a burn.

Now it is obvious that the first dictate of common-sense is to treat an injury by something of an opposite character, as when we apply cold water to cure a burn, or an anodyne to relieve pain. Still it is well known that burns may sometimes be relieved by holding them near the fire, and that a frozen part is sometimes benefited by rubbing it with snow. The Eclectic physician practises freely by the antipathic law, as when he gives a cathartic to relieve constipation, tonics to relieve weakness, anodynes to relieve pain, stimulants to restore warmth and circulation, and antispasmodics to overcome muscular contraction; but, at the same time, he finds it practicable, occasionally, to quiet the stomach, not by an aromatic or carminative, such as peppermint, but by a small dose of some emetic substance; or to overcome a diarrhea by a medicine of a cathartic character; or to relieve an inflammation by the application, not of ice, but of warm water.

It is obvious, therefore, that none of the fashionable pathies express the objects of the practice of an Eclectic physician. On the contrary, he adopts all the principles of treatment he deems appropriate; his system is properly a system which uses medicines in every relation to disease that may be made curative. We may, therefore, put our nomenclature into a fashionable shape, by saying that the American Eclectic system is a system in which its votaries have the largest liberty to choose, and which denies the right of any society or college to dictate a medical creed, or a limited routine of practice to the profession, since every physician should always be ready to use any remedy which he has found to be useful, no matter whether colleges, societies, or authors have recommended it or not.

Such is the *philosophic system* of Eclecticism. But, in a *practical* point of view, we might give a more simple and equally truthful definition. The American Eclectic system is the protest of American common-sense and experience against the traditional dogmas, the antiquated theories, and the aristocratic rules which have cramped and degraded the medical

profession.

The healing art has been progressing slowly for ages. In every generation new discoveries are made, and old absurdities are laid aside. In our own country, the independent spirit of the people, and the habits of free inquiry which are fostered by public institutions, have led a large portion of the profession to disregard, in practice, the extravagant theories which they were taught in the schools. Thousands of experienced physicians have discovered in their practice that the doctrines of their teachers produced unsatisfactory results, and have been compelled, by a sense of duty, to abandon the pernicious practices of bleeding and salivating their patients. Finding then that they were far more successful in following their own common-sense and observation than in blindly obeying authority, they were encouraged to go on in additional changes and improvements; and, as they were often in villages or country places unable to obtain a sufficient supply of all the officinal remedies, they were compelled to resort to the native plants which they found growing about, and which had been successfully used in domestic practice or by the aborigines. This independent course was rewarded by an astonishing success in practice. They discovered new articles for the materia medica, the use of which had not yet been known in the colleges; and by the use of such remedies, guided by their own independent sagacity, they were enabled to accomplish wonderful cures, where the most learned graduates, fresh from London, Paris, and Philadelphia, had signally failed.

The progress, however, of these democratic improvements in the profession, mostly effected by individuals who had never written a book or occupied a professional chair, was regarded with great jealousy by the leading authorities of the profession. A violent party-spirit was aroused, and physicians who were known to have discarded mercurials and bleeding for the sake of using the more safe and efficient remedies furnished by our indigenous plants were violently opposed and treated with great indignity, as if they had been guilty not only of errors of opinion, but of degrading, unprefessional, or immoral conduct; and so violent, in many instances, was the opposition to these innovations, that no physician could be recognized as a respectable member of the profession who would not consent to administer calomel to his patients, in accordance with the dogmas of the schools. The independent physicians, who discarded calomel and bleeding, were freely and generally denounced by their rivals as empirics and quacks, and stringent laws were passed in many of the States to exclude them from practice, and compel every member of the profession to submit to the control of its leading societies. Fortunately, however, the spirit of liberty was too powerful for all such combinations, and every State in the Union, which had allowed its statute-book to be disgraced by such laws has repealed them absolutely, in accordance with the remonstrances of the people—even the medical profession, in many instances, acknowledging the justness and propriety of their repeal, and the absurdity of endeavoring to control men's opinions in medicine by the power of legislation.

From the peculiar manner in which various changes and improvements have been effected, it is obvious that this great American reform is not a matter of philosophical theory, the product of a single mind, but rather a matter of clinical experience, the result of a vast number of observations by intelligent physicians in every part of our country. This great American reform, in its unity or consistency, arises solely from its truth; for, if a great number of independent observers agree in their experience, recommending certain changes and improvements in medical practice, it is exceedingly improbable that they should be mistaken, or that their system should not be a great improvement upon its predecessor. In fact, nothing but the consciousness of truth and the encouragement of success could have induced so many American practitioners to brave the odium of innovation and the annoyance of medical proscription by organized and powerful societies.

Originating thus, the American Eclectic System of Medicine may justly claim to be the most advanced condition of medical science, combining the scientific research and learning of Europe with the practical skill and

medical improvements of America.—Medical Tracts.

ECLECTIC MEDICAL SOCIETY OF THE CITY OF NEW YORK.

THE regular monthly meeting of this Society was held at the College Building, No. 185 East 26th Street, on Wednesday evening, January 16th.

Prof. J. Milton Sanders was elected a member of the Society.

Prof. J. M. Youart read an elaborate essay on "Inversion of the Uterus." The causes, symptoms, degrees, and treatment of this affection were fully stated, and cases which had occurred in his practice were given in illustration. Chronic cases of this affection, and also cases connected with adherent placenta, with their complications and treatment, were related by Drs. Newton, A. B. Whitney, and Allen, and also by Drs. Smith and Firth, of Brooklyn. The literature of this subject was also discussed, and many valuable facts were elicited.

Dr. Firth detailed a treatment for Asthma, which he had found very efficient in certain varieties of this affection; and Dr. Smith corroborated the efficacy of Dr. Firth's treatment by his own success in the use of the same and similar remedies. Prof. Youart also reported cases of long standing which had been cured, and Prof. Newton suggested to the Society a new remedy, not yet fully tested, but which thus far secured the

best results of any remedy he had ever used.

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Drs. H. M. Sweet and W. R. Hayden were appointed essayists for the next meeting.

PAUL W. ALLEN, Secretary.

BROOKLYN ACADEMY OF MEDICINE.

BROOKLYN, Jan. 2, 1867.

The Brooklyn Academy of Medicine held its regular monthly meeting at 100 Clermont avenue, January 2, at $7\frac{1}{2}$ o'clock P. M., President D. E. Smith, M. D., in the chair.

After the transaction of the usual business, Prof. William W. Hadley

read a very elaborate and ably-written paper on the subject of poisons. Those poisons usually employed as medicines he classified in accordance with their peculiar action or the effect they produced when employed to meet certain pathognomonic indications. The essayist demonstrated very conclusively how the most violent poisons could in small doses be judiciously given, and also how simple and (under ordinary circumstances) harmless medicines can be productive of much injury, and even death, when injudiciously employed. The doctor ignored mercury, antimony, lead, and similar mineral poisons, upon scientific grounds, as being incompatible with the laws of life. He claimed that the physiological effect of all vegetable poisons, when administered in medicinal doses, are but transient, and when they accomplish their object by restoring nervous energy and equalizing the circulation of the blood, pass off without permanently deranging the "vital force" or disorganizing any tissues. With metallic poisons, however, the result is frequently different. If they do remove disease by virtue of their own peculiar influence, they subsequently lay Nature under obligations for their removal from the system, which oftentimes, owing to her enfeebled condition, she is inadequate to accomplish. Mercury, indeed, frequently remains in the system in the form of oxides and chlorides, and even in its metallic state, and no vital action, however vigorous, is capable for their removal.

The paper was listened to with interest, and at its close called forth

an animated discussion.

Prof. Paul Allen referred to the prize essay of Dr. Ives which was read before the last session of the State Medical Society of Connecticut (Allopathic). Dr. Ives has taken the same ground upon which electics have stood for thirty years, viz.: that mercury in any of its forms is not only useless but also a curse to humanity. What is remarkable, in this paper Dr. Ives has assumed that mercury exerts no influence on the biliary secretions, and has furnished a large amount of testimony and experiments

to prove his position.

Dr. H. E. Firth trusted that as eclectics we would investigate all subjects of medical interest in a spirit of liberality. He had not used mercury in any of its forms (save in one instance) during a practice of over twenty years. He does not oppose its use because of the prejudice of early education, but his objections are based upon the ground of principle; that its use is contra-indicated by the law of therapeutics. We hold ourselves open at all times to the investigation of any claims that the advocates of these poisons may present, but our present faith is, and the evidences are multiplying which strengthen that faith, that the advocates of mercury, antimony, lead, and kindred metallic poisons will meet the same fate that those of blood-letting have, and eventually yield to the spirit of progress and scientific medication.

Dr. Whitney had for many years abandoned the use of mercury, and has lost all faith in it as a remedial agent; he does not believe it acts

upon the biliary secretions.

Dr. M. Hermance said that he was a living specimen of the painful effects of mercury administered when young; he is a "walking barometer," and is compelled to husband his strength and abridge his labors in consequence of a delicate constitution that might have been otherwise had it not been for the effects of mercury; he expected to carry to his grave the painful influence of this curse of humanity; but, as long as life is spared him, he will labor both in heart and voice until mercury shall become with the old school what it is now with the eclectics—altogether discarded.

Dr. D. E. Smith read a very instructive paper upon the medical prop-

erties of the dioscoria villosa (wild yam or colic root). Its use, as also its discovery, belongs to the eclectic school of medicine. It is one of the most reliable medicines for that heretofore dangerous and painful disease, bilious colic (or colic in any form) that has ever been brought to notice. It is also valuable in gastritis and other painful diseases of the stomach and bowels. In colic, however, it is that its effects are the most remarkable. Abundant evidence is now had from hundreds of eclectic physicians to establish the fact that no other medicine heretofore known for the relief of colic is half so valuable. What adds still further to its merit, it is perfectly harmless and may be used in doses at pleasure.

The Doctor has submitted the plant to a great variety of chemical tests, and exhibited to the Society a number of distinct products obtained from the plant. There is a concentrated preparation put up by eclectic

pharmaceutists called dioscorine.

A. B. Whitney reported a case of excessive secretion of milk, accompanied with mammary abscess, which called forth some very pertinent remarks from Prof. Youart; he claimed that mammary abscess most frequently had its origin in excoriated nipples, the inflammation of which extended along the lymphatics until the deeper tissues were involved. The pain consequent upon nursing the child frequently deters the mother from applying it to the breast until congestion and consequent inflammation is the result.

Drs. H. E. Firth and M. Hermance were appointed essayists for the next meeting, and Professor Paul W. Allen requested to deliver an address before the Society at the annual meeting on the first Wednesday in March, 1867, due notice of which will appear in the newspapers.

H. E. FIRTH, Secretary.

ECLECTIC MEDICAL ASSOCIATION.

Indianapolis, Oct. 8th, 1866.

WHEREAS, Dr. J. M. Youart has been called from us to a professorship in the Eclectic Medical College of the City of New York, and

WHEREAS, he has sustained himself as a reputable and successful prac-

titioner of Medicine and Surgery in this city, and

Whereas, he has proven to be a valuable co-laborer in Medical reform in

the Eclectic Medical Association of Indianapolis, therefore

Resolved, That the members of this Association tender him their cordial regards for his efforts to build up on a reputable basis the Eclectic practice of Medicine here as elsewhere, and that he has our best wishes in his new field of labor, and we take pleasure in recommending him to the Faculty and students of the Eclectic Medical College of the City of New York, and to the public at large of the metropolis of America as a trustworthy, successful and skillful physician and surgeon.

E. Huntsinger, Sec.

THE BODY OF JEREMY BENTHAM.

The London Notes and Queries contains a letter from the late Dr. Southwood Smith, in relation to the disposal of the body of Jeremy Bentham. The letter is dated June 14th, 1857, and says: "Jeremy Bentham left by will his body to me for dissection. I was also to deliver a public lecture over his body to medical students and the public gener-

The latter was done at the Webb Street School—Brougham, James Mill, Grote, and many other disciples of Bentham being present. After the usual anatomical demonstrations over the body, a skeleton was made of the bones. I endeavored to preserve the head untouched, merely drawing away the fluids by placing it under an air-pump over sulphuric acid. By this means the head was rendered as hard as the skulls of the New Zealanders, but all expression was gone, of course. Seeing this would not do for exhibition, I had a model made in wax by a distinguished French artist, taken from David's bust, Pickersgill's picture, and my own ring. The artist succeeded in producing one of the most admirable likenesses ever seen. I then had the skeleton stuffed out to fit Bentham's own clothes, and this wax likeness fitted to the trunk. This figure was placed seated on the chair on which he usually sat, and one hand holding the walking-stick which was his constant companion when he went out, called by him Dapple. The whole was enclosed in a mahogany case, with folding glass doors. When I removed from Finsbury Square, I had no room large enough to hold the case; I therefore gave it to University College, where it now is.

KING'S CHRONIC DISEASES.

In answer to many inquiries, I can say that the work is passing as rapidly through the press as Professor John King can read the proof. As it progresses, I am more and more surprised at the richness of the subject, and the ease with which the author has handled it. It is eminently practical in every part, and the direction for treatment and preparation of remedies is given with great care. It has been the aim of the writer to place in the hands of Eclectics everything of known value in the management of chronic diseases, and thus add to the reputation we have always had in the management of these affections.

In illustration of the method employed, I will give a list of subjects taken up in the introduction, which comprises over a hundred closely

printed pages:

Temperaments; Diet; Drinks; Ventilation; Air; Clothing; Shampooing; Frictions; Exercise; Sea Voyages; Electricity; Galvanism; Electro-galvanic Instruments; Light; Heat; Pulvermacher's Chains; Society; Passions; Mental Influences; Generative Functions; Sleep; Baths; Douches; Medicated Baths; Electric Baths; Attentions to the Skin; Attentions to the Bowels; Attentions to the Kidneys; Urine and its Indications; Constituents of Urine, etc.

Let it be borne in mind that each one of these receives full consideration, and is constantly referred to through the body of the work, as the different diseases pass under review, and the reader can appreciate the richness of the volume and its value to the practitioner. Subscriptions are now being received for early copies of the work, which will be forwarded in the order in which they are received. Price \$15.—*Ec. Med. Journal*, Cin.

FOR SALE.

An Eclectic Drug Store (in Brooklyn), nineteen years established, well stocked, and now doing a good business, will be sold on very reasonable terms. Inquire of D. E. Smith, M.D., Brooklyn, N. Y.

AMERICAN

ECLECTIC MEDICAL REVIEW;

A Monthly Record of Medicine

AND

THE COLLATERAL SCIENCES.

Vol. II.

MARCH, 1867.

No. 10.

ORIGINAL COMMUNICATIONS.

Modern Synthetic Chemistry.

A LECTURE DELIVERED BEFORE THE CLASS OF THE ECLECTIC MEDICAL COLLEGE OF NEW YORK CITY.

BY PROF. J. MILTON SANDERS, M. D., LL. D.

And we thus made acquaintance, in germ, with a principle, from which, as a living seed, the mighty growth of modern chemistry has mainly sprung.

PROF. HOFFMANN.

The time has now come when we may, with advantage, pick up the dropped links, and add them to our chain. The study of more complex structures will prepare us for the investigation, upon which we must enter, of an almost infinite succession of complex bodies, so numerous and ever-multiplying, that he who desires to be a master in chemistry must be content to remain, his whole life through, a hard-working student of their legions.

It is well known that organized substances have been formed in the laboratory by the destruction or breaking up of still more complex substances; but it is only quite lately that these compounds have been formed constructively by the synthesis of less complex bodies. This forms the distinctive feature between modern and past chemistry. Of late years chemistry has made wonderful advancement. It was a standing axiom that no organic substance could be produced, only by the destruction of some body more complex in its constitution than the body produced. The ultimate constitution of the most complex organized substance is now well understood by the chemist, and, taking the chemistry of

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nature as his guide, he has at length learned the method of building up instead of tearing down, so that complex molecules may now be constructed from those of the greatest simplicity—nay, from the elemental atoms themselves, without having any recourse whatever to organic nature. The following tabular view of a few substances possessing complicated formulæ may be of interest to you, as they are the results of natural metamorphosis of the tissues of the body:

Methylamine, C H_s N C H₄ N₂ O Urea, C₂ H₅ N O₂ Glycerine, C₂ H₇ N S O₃ Taurine, C. H. N. Melamine, C₃ H₇ N O₂ Sarcosine, C4 H, N, O2 Kreatine, Leucine, C₆ H₁₈ N O₂ C. H. N O. Tyrosine,

I will make a few remarks upon the nature and composition of some of the above substances. Leucine is a product of the use of, and which presupposes the waste or metamorphosis of the glandular tissue. The chemist can now produce it artificially by breaking up a variety of animal substances, such as skin, muscle, ligaments, hair, feathers, bone, &c. But he can likewise produce it constructively by a synthesis of less complex organic substances, irrespective of the aid of the vital force. It may be produced by combining valerianic aldehyde, water, and hydrocyanic acid:—

 $H_2 O, C_6 H_{10} O, C H N = C_6 H_{12} N O_2$, Leucine.

Taurine has been detected in the glandular tissue, and especially in the lungs. It may be found in large quantity in the bile, conjugated with cholic acid. This Taurine, it will be observed, contains sulphur in its constitution, and that it is very complex. By the action of sulphuric acid, ammonia, and alcohol, Taurine may be built up; and as each of these substances may be formed from the elementary atoms, we really get this complex organic body from charcoal, sulphur, oxygen, hydrogen, and nitrogen. The other

substances in the table may be formed synthetically in a similar manner.

Before I attempt any farther to trace the composition and the manner of the building up of the complex organic compounds, it will be necessary to make a few remarks upon the three typical bodies upon which they are built. Among the sixty-odd substances in nature, recognized by chemists as elementary, only four of them are gaseous, viz.: hydrogen, oxygen, nitrogen, and chlorine. The primary chemical types are built of these four gaseous elements, all being considered as hydrides—the chloride of hydrogen, or hydrochloric acid, oxide of hydrogen, or water, and nitride of hydrogen, or ammonia.

Let us look at these substances in their volume relations. We find that one litre, or volume, of chlorine, and one litre of hydrogen, when combined, produce two litres of hydrochloric acid gas. If we bring together one and a half litres, or volumes, of chlorine, and one litre of hydrogen, only one litre will combine with the hydrogen, while the half litre will remain intact. This will be equally true if one and a half litres of hydrogen be used, the half litre being left uncombined. This proves that chlorine and hydrogen combine in the proportion of equal measures. And it is likewise ascertained that the two volumes of gases, when united, form a compound gas without any condensation; hence the latter consists of two volumes. Again, when hydrogen and oxygen combine together to form water, we observe that it is invariably in the proportion of two volumes of the former to one volume of the latter. If we submit water to electrolysis, we get exactly two volumes, or measures, of hydrogen to one volume of oxygen. But, unlike hydrochloric acid, we find that these three volumes of gases (one of oxygen to two of hydrogen), upon uniting, condense to only two volumes.

We furthermore find, that, in ammonia (the third typical body), one volume of nitrogen will invariably combine with three volumes of hydrogen, and that these four volumes of gases will, in combining, condense to two volumes. Here we see that these three substances, hydrochloric acid, water,

and ammonia, although formed respectively of two, three, and four volumes of gas, each, upon being combined, presents but two volumes of gas. Now the weights of these gases, in equal bulks, differ materially. While hydrogen weighs but one crith, or grain, the same bulk of chlorine weighs 35.5 criths, and nitrogen 14 criths. These figures being the atomic weights, or equivalents, of these gases, we find that their volume weights and atomic weights coincide. We find that chlorine not only combines with hydrogen, volume to volume, but that it is capable of displacing that gas in the same ratio in a great number of compounds. In fact we may regard free chlorine (Cl Cl) and hydrochloric acid (H Cl) as built upon the molecules of free hydrogen (H H), by the substitution of chlorine for one and two of its atoms, Cl H, Cl Cl.

It is no very easy matter to get at the volume relations of the gases; but, as the greater number of the elements are solid (only two being fluid), how are we to get at their combinations by volume? There are several of the solid elements, such as phosphorus, iodine, and sulphur, that unite with one, two, and three volumes of hydrogen, and with one, two, and three volumes of chlorine likewise. Thus we have the monochloride (Cl I), the dichloride (Cl. S), and the trichloride (P, N). These volumes are now regarded by chemists as atomic proportions, and it is found that their several specific heats are expressed by the number 6.3. now we take that proportion of a metal which will correspond to the specific heat of one volume, or combining proportion, of the above gases, or that represented by 6.3, and regard it as the atomic proportion of the metal, we find that the chlorides of the metals, like the above-named metals, may be divided into monochlorides, dichlorides, and trichlorides. There are a few of these chlorides which may be vaporized, but they prove that two litres of their several vapors contain as many of chlorine as their respective formulæ would indicate, deduced from their specific heats. From two litres of the bichloride of mercury we can get two litres of chlorine, just as we can from the same volume of water; but from two

litres of the chloride of bismuth (Cl. Bi), we can get three litres of chlorine, just as we can get three litres of chlorine from two litres of chloride phosphorus (Cl. P). In a word, from two volumes of these metallic chlorides we find the same volumes of chlorine we get from similarly constituted non-metallic chlorides.

In order that the simplicity which characterizes our modern system of building up the most complex substances, the following relations between the three typical substances I have reverted to must be attentively observed. I write them in the following form:

Chlorides.	Hydrates.	Amides.
H Cl	н, н о	H, H ₂ N
K Cl	к, но	K, H, N
$\mathbf{Zn}_{\mathbf{c}}(:\mathbf{l_{2}})$	Zn, HO,	Zn, H ₂ N ₂
P Cl.	P, H O,	P, H ₂ N ₃

If we act upon hydrochloric acid, water, and ammonia with a metal, we invariably obtain the same kind of reaction: one atom of the metal displaces one atom of hydrogen, and instead of chloride, oxide and nitride of hydrogen, we obtain the chloride, hydrate and oxide of the metal. This may therefore be regarded as the compounds of the metal with the radicals, chlorine (Cl), Eurhyzen* (HO), and amidogen (H, N). If the metal we use be potassium, caustic potash and potassamide may be regarded as the ammoniated form of chloride of potassium. This we find to be the case similarly with any chloride, either mineral or organic, simple or compound—that is, that they have a corresponding hydrate and amide, having the same relations that caustic potash and potassamide have to chloride of potassium. We regard chloride of potassium as formed upon the type of hydrochloric acid, where the hydrogen of the acid is displaced by potas-In the same manner the hydrate of potash is formed upon the water type by the displacement of an atom of its hydrogen by potassium, and potassamide as being built upon the ammonia type by the substitution of potassium for an

^{*} So termed by the Germans.

atom of hydrogen in ammonia. By this we learn that some of the most complicated products of tissue metamorphosis are only the ammoniated forms of very simple substances.

Another substance upon which we may build is marsh gas, a compound of one atom of carbon combined with four atoms of hydrogen (C H₄). If we displace one atom of hydrogen in marsh gas by one atom of chlorine (C H, Cl), and then substitute for this chlorine atom one of peroxide of hydrogen (II O), we will thereby get wood-spirits. If we, however, replace the chlorine atom by amidogen (N H₂), we get methylamine. This latter substance is a constant product of the putrefaction of animal matter. If, instead of the above, we replace the two chlorine atoms in phosgene gas (C O Cl.) by peroxide of hydrogen, we get carbonic acid; but if, instead of the peroxide of hydrogen, we replace them by amidogen, we obtain urea, which exists so abundantly in the urine, as a product of the metamorphosis of the nitrogenous portions of the body. Urea, therefore, regarded by physiologists as a very complex body, is viewed by the chemist as merely the ammoniated form of one of the simplest mineral acids.

Again, if we replace the three chlorine atoms in cyanuric chloride (C, N, Cl,) by three atoms of peroxide of hydrogen, we obtain cyanuric or pyro-uric acid; and if we replace them by amidogen, we will obtain melamine, a product of the action of heat upon urea. Again, if we replace the chlorine in chloracetic acid (C₂ H₃ Cl O₂) by an atom of peroxide of hydrogen, we get glycolic acid: and if it be substituted by amidogen, we get glycocine, or sugar of gelatine. If, in chlorethyl-sulphurous acid (C, H, Cl S O,), we replace the chlorine by peroxide of hydrogen, we get Isethionic acid, and if it be replaced by amidogen, we get Taurine. These three bodies are therefore the ethyl-sulphurous varieties of hydrochloric acid, water, and ammonia.* This generalization is of wide applicability. We find that we are thus enabled to associate together bodies of the greatest complexity, whereby we obtain substances which, in their easiness of comprehension, are in great contrast to our former appreciation of them. That is, by establishing between them the simple relations that exist between hydrochloric acid, water, and ammonia, we get at a key by which we can unlock the complexity of the most formidable organic compound, and reveal it to us in its utmost simplicity.

In order that you may comprehend the separate parts of a complex molecule, I will adduce the substances salicin and populin. The former, by submitting it to the proper conditions, will readily break up into less complex molecules, that is, into saligenin and glucose. Populin, treated in the same manner, will separate into saligenin, glucose, and benzoic acid. In the former we have the following reaction:

Salicin. Water. Saligenin. Glucose.
$$C_{18}$$
 H_{18} O_7 + H_2 O = C_7 H_8 O_2 + C_6 H_{12} O_8

In the latter instance the populin breaks up as follows:

Populin. Water. Saligenin. Glucose. Benzoic Acid.
$$C_{20}$$
 H_{22} O_{8} + 2 H_{2} O = C_{7} H_{8} O_{2} + C_{6} H_{12} O_{6} + C_{7} H_{6} O_{2}

In both the above reactions it will be observed that a molecule of water in the first and two molecules in the second are concerned, in which these water molecules must be appropriated by the salicin and populin, ere they can undergo the splitting-up revealed by the equations. We therefore learn that salicin does not contain within it, already formed, the substances saligenin or glucose, and that neither does populin contain saligenin, glucose, and benzoic acid, but that, before either of these substances can be formed, water or its elements must be appropriated. We find that molecules of very complex composition may be built up from those less so by their constituent radicals absorbing, directly or indirectly, one or more molecules of aplone bodies, or those of less complexity. These radicals which, by their combination, produce these complex bodies by the absorption of water, are capable of separation from each other, and thereby forming separate though less complex compounds. Therefore we regard all polymerone, or complex substances, as being formed by the

uniting of aplone, or substances of less complexity. of the complex organic substances have already been traced as belonging to certain typical groups and series, and there is no doubt but that we shall finally locate the most complex substances in their natural groups, as we have indicated in a former part of this lecture. Organic chemistry has therefore achieved grand results. The complicated structure of organic bodies the chemist has taken to pieces, not into its elementary atoms, but into molecules, or groups of bodies, which, possessing the combining properties of elementary atoms, may be analyzed or synthesized at pleasure. The very complex body hippuric acid, C. H. N O., contains 22 constituent atoms. It is known to consist of the residues, or compound radicals, of benzoic acid, of oxiacetic acid, or glycolic acid, and of ammo-These radicals may be better comprehended by the following:

C₇ H₆ O₂ = Benzoic Acid
C₂ H₄ O₃ = Glycolic Acid,

A₈ N = Ammonia.

C₉ H₁₃ N O₅

H₄ O₂ = Water,

C₉ H₉ N O₃ = Hippuric Acid.

By subtracting two molecules of water from ten atoms of the molecules of benzoic acid, glycolic acid, and ammonia, there results a substance having the composition of hippuric acid. If we act upon hippuric acid with different reagents, we have different compounds, depending upon which of the radicals the reagent may attack, or whether it may be one or more of the radicals. Each chemist therefore has assigned to hippuric acid a different formula. For instance, the glycolic acid is the most prone to combine with oxygen, and this radical is the most readily destroyed, if the agent be a substance yielding oxygen freely. In this case the glycolic acid would be removed, and the radicals of the benzoic acid and the ammonia will remain united, and forming *Benzamide*, thus:

 $C_7 H_6 O_2 + H_8 N = C_7 H_9 N O_2 - H_2 O = C_7 H_7 N O$

by which you will perceive that, if one molecule of benzoic acid and one molecule of ammonia be conjoined, and one atom of water be subtracted from them, that one molecule of Benzamide will be the result.

If we treat ammonia with nitrous acid, its hydrogen will be converted into water, and its nitrogen will be evolved in its gaseous condition, together with the nitrogen of the acid, thus:—

$$H_3 N + H N O_2 = 2H_2 O + N_2$$

If, therefore, we treat hippuric acid with nitrous acid, its ammoniacal radical is destroyed in like manner by the acid, and the two residues are left in combination in the form of benzoglycolic acid:—

$$C_7 H_6 O_2 + C_2 H_4 O_3 - H_2 O = C_9 H_8 O_4$$

By examining this equation, as I have chalked it upon the blackboard, you will readily perceive the reaction, viz.: that one molecule of benzoic acid, added to one of glycolic acid, minus one of water, yields one of benzoglycolic acid (C. H. O.). You are aware that hippuric acid is produced in large quantity in the animal body, and especially in that Its transformations are therefore very instrucof the horse. We learn from its reactions that it contains the residues, or radicals, of three distinct molecules, which, by the absorption of water, are capable of separation. If either one of these radicals is destroyed, the other two combine, and we may get the benzoic and ammoniacal radicals as benzamide, or the other two, the benzoic and glycolic radicals, as benzoglycolic acid, or the radicals glycolic and ammoniacal, as sugar of gelatine.

I have given you an example of the manner in which residues combine, both as the constituents of a substance, without, we may say, leaving it, and, when they do leave it, to combine with some external body. This will, therefore, give you an idea of the manner in which many substances combine to form those of greater complexity. In this table I now bring before you, I have placed in the first and sec-

ond columns those simple radicals which, by their combinations, with the elimination of water, will produce the bodies opposite them in the third column.

Radicals.		Diamerones.
Alcohol,	Sulphuric Acid	Isethionic
Wood-spirit,	Ammonia	Methylamine
Carbonic Acid,	do.	Urea
Glycolic Acid,	do.	Glycocine
Leucic Acid,	do.	Leucine
Palmitic Acid,	Cetal	Spermaceti
Palmitic,	Melyssal	Myricin
Palmitic Acid,	Glycerin	Palmitin
Stearic Acid,	do.	Stearin
Oleic Acid,	do.	Olein

In this table we see that isethionic acid may be formed by the union of alcohol and sulphuric acid, with the elimination of water. It therefore contains a residue of each of these substances. The next, methylamine, is a product of putrefaction of animal matter. It is formed, as you will perceive, by a combination of the residues of wood-spirit and ammonia; while urea, the analogue in man of hippuric acid in the horse, is composed of the residues of carbonic acid and ammonia, as in the former case, with the elimination of water, &c. Before I close, it will now be necessary to give you one other table, by which you can comprehend the rational composition of some still more complex animal bodies. As the previous table gives you the Diamerones, this one will give you the Polymerones.

[Resid	11.65.	Polymerones.
Isethionic Acid,	Ammonia	Taurine
Glycolic Acid,	Methylamine	Sarcosine
Carbonic Acid,	Urea	Allophon
Oxalic Acid,	Urea	Paraban
Mesoxalic Acid,	Urea	Alloxon
Benzoic Acid,	Glycocine	Hippuric Acid
Cholic Acid,	Glycocine	Bile Acid, a
Cholic Acid,	Taurine	Bile Acid, b
Urea,	Sarcosine	Kreatine
Urea,	Methylamine	Methyluramine

In this table, as in the former one, the residues of isethionic acid and ammonia produce, with the elimination of water, Taurine, and this latter substance is the result of the residues of sulphuric acid and alcohol; while, again, Sarcosine is produced by the union of glycolic acid and methylamine, and the latter of the residues of wood-spirit and ammonia.

Thus, gentlemen, you see how very simple the building up of very complex substances from those of less complexity may be brought about. We have now entered into a new era in chemistry, and in my next lecture I shall introduce to your notice still more complex substances; but so simple is their formation by this building-up process that you will have no difficulty in comprehending their nature and relationship.

New York, February, 1867.

Case of Poisoning by Arsenic.*

BY PAUL W. ALLEN, M. D.,

Professor of Theory and Practice of Medicine in the Eclectic Medical College of the City of New York.

On the morning of January 10th, 1867, the day after the semi-annual meeting of the Massachusetts Eclectic Medical Society, I went, with Dr. Geddes, into the office of Dr. Joseph Jackson, 106 Court street, Boston. Dr. Geddes and myself had been in the office but a few moments, in waiting for Dr. Jackson to arrive, when a young gentleman and lady entered, and inquired for him. We assured the parties that Dr. Jackson would soon be in. The young gentleman seemed greatly in haste for a physician, and soon after stated that he could not wait, that the lady had taken arsenic—a large dose—and that he wished a physician immediately, and inquired where they could find one. The case was referred to me. "Have you taken arsenic?" "Yes, sir," replied the young lady

^{*} Read before the Eclectic Medical Society of the City of New York.

before us, a person beautifully developed in form and feature, with dark hair and lustrous eyes, and looking all too lovely to have known sorrow, or committed such a sin as attempted suicide. Besides, that "Yes, sir," was spoken with such serenity, and with so bland a smile upon her countenance, that for a moment we almost doubted whether she were not attempting some deception. We instantly continued our inquiries. "How long since you took the arsenic?" "Half an hour, perhaps." "How much did you take?" "A large dose, sir; but I didn't measure it." "Did you know it was very poisonous, and liable to kill you?" "I supposed it would. I took a large dose. It will do no good to give me anything. I think it will kill me."

We ordered fifteen grains of sulphate of zinc, immediately, in a little water, and quickly sent to Mr. Metcalf's for a bottle of the Hydratum Oxidum Ferri, and resumed our examination.

"Did you take breakfast before taking the arsenic, or did you take it on an empty stomach?" "I have not eaten anything for nearly two days." "Do you feel any sickness or distress at the stomach?" "No, sir; I feel a little faint and sinking. I think it will kill me. Doctor, it's no use to give me medicine." "Did you expect it would kill you?" "Yes, sir." "I pity you most sincerely. I will do whatever science can do for you. It is my duty to save you." "How can you save me? I took a great deal—a teaspoonful, at least," she said, with what seemed to be a triumphant smile. "What made you take it?" "I wanted to; I am tired of living." "I want to send for your friends; what street do they live in?" "I have no friends here; I am a stranger. I lodge at No. — —— street, and take my meals at the eating-saloons. home is in —, in the State of —." By this time the emetic had acted promptly, and plenty of water was given to make the emesis more thorough, so as to dislodge all we could from the mucous membrane. There was no food, in fact nothing but mucus and the water, until we had repeated the emetic doses three times. Then a white powder, more than half a teaspoonful in quantity, was seen in the

bottom of the pail into which she had vomited. She vomited immediately after each dose, and we followed each emesis with nearly a tablespoonful of the Ferri Hyd. Ox., in a little cold water. She still seemed perfectly composed, .just as ready to die as to live; but her pulse became rapidly weaker, her hands became cold, the "damp cold sweat" was upon her fair face and neck and hands; she breathed in sighs of evident difficulty, and the case really seemed like the collapse of impending dissolution. But her mind was clear, weak as she was. Calmly she asked, "What is the ground of your hope to save me?" "We are getting all the poison out of your stomach that we can, by emetics; and we are trying to neutralize the rest with this iron, which is a chemical antidote. Where did you get the arsenic?" "At Mr. ——'s, the apothecary, in —— street." "Why did he let you have it?" "I have been there before to get arsenic to stop my toothache." "Did you take all he gave you?" "No, sir; here is a little," taking a small white folded paper, marked "Poison," from her pocket. We opened it, found some twenty grains of arsenic, sent it to the apothecary, and ascertained that he had given her "ten cents worth," unweighed. Lest the poison might not all be thrown off, we advised, along with Dr. Jackson, who had now arrived, that three more doses of the zinc should be administered. But the pallor and pulselessness of our patient began to make us somewhat fearful of the results of the case. From the young man, who had accompanied the lady from the manufactory in which they and many others were emploved, we could get no clue as to the cause of this poisoning, but only that she had come into the factory, and taken the arsenic in a little water.

Life was so uncertain, and death seemed so near, that we now sought the reason for so terrible an act as suicide, in one whose amiable and queenly countenance indicated that she was intended for happiness herself, and to make happy all those around her. We said: "You may not live; be hopeful; we will do all we can. Have you a father and mother?" "No mother; she is dead, and no friends here." "Have

you a father?" "Yes, sir." "Where does he live?" "In ——, State of ——." "Your father may forgive you doubtless he will; but, as your father, he will want to know why you have done this. Have you any reason to give?" Waiting for an answer, we said again: "Have you been disappointed in your plans or affections?" "Some, in my affections; but I don't wish to speak much of it." We assured her that she was with those whose experience had made them acquainted with all the varied phases of life, who knew human hearts and personal histories of every shade, and that she could speak with generous confidence; and that if she had any private message to send to her father, in the possible event of death, we would most religiously fulfil our duty, and the world would know it not. But she had no message. We took her father's address and her own, and asked: "What shall I write to him?" "Tell father to come and get me," was her reply. We tried to convince her, in a few faithful words, of the sinful rashness of her deed, and to lead her mind to penitence, that she might hope for forgiveness, even in such an emergency. We were now compelled to leave, to meet an engagement, by the cars, in a distant town, and, after expressing our ardent hope that she might recover, and never again give way to such desperation of despondency, we consulted with Dr. Jackson, and left her future in his faithful care.

We confess that our minds frequently reverted to the case, now with hope and then with fear, for some days; but were much gratified to receive a note from Dr. Jackson, giving a record of the case, from which we state the following, essentially in his own words: "Soon after you left, the symptoms became still more marked and grave. A general coldness seemed to pervade the whole system. The extremities became very cold, clammy, and numb. She had vertigo and faintness. The burning at the stomach became quite acute, attended with great oppression in the region of the heart, and considerable dyspnæa. Pulsation at the wrist was almost extinct, and remained so for three hours. Painful retching became quite prominent, and also a general uneasiness, which

was quite troublesome. The zinc, with the copious drinks of warm water, produced very profuse vomiting, dislodging another, and very considerable, portion of arsenic. Warm water and milk, thickened with flour, was then given quite freely; which relieved the burning at the stomach very much. The ferri oxidum hydratum was given in tablespoonful doses, mixed in cold water, every few minutes, for two hours; and then every half hour until six o'clock in the evening, when she was conveyed home in a carriage. At nine o'clock in the evening she was doing well, and the iron was continued, once an hour, through the night. On Friday, the 11th, she was much better, having passed a comparatively comfortable night; but she had much soreness in the stomach and bowels, and a general soreness all over the body.

Saturday, Jan. 12th.—She is still better than yesterday. Sunday, 13th.—The patient is not so well as yesterday; feels very lame all over her system, and is in bed; complains of a terribly sinking sensation in the stomach and bowels, on assuming an upright position.

Monday, 14th.—Is much better to-day.

Tuesday, 15th.—Still improving, and talks of resuming her work in a day or two.

With a few suggestions, I leave this case with the reader. First: It seems to us that zinc is the best remedy to produce emesis in most cases of poisoning. It is prompt and painless and powerful. Ipecac and lobelia would not probably have acted so promptly, and they might not have operated until fatal inflammation of the stomach had been produced. Besides, their nauseating effect would probably have relaxed the mucous membrane of the stomach, and rendered a degree of absorption more probable; and we say a degree, for arsenious acid is only very slightly soluble in either hot water, cold water, or the fluids of the stomach; but acts mostly as a violent local irritant, destroying the coats of the stomach by the inflammation induced. All medical men are aware that this is the action of arsenic in cases of acute poisoning from this agent, and if any are interested to know the exact appearances of the stomach, upon post mortem, we would refer them to the beautifully colored plates in the English edition of Hope's Pathological Anatomy.

Secondly: The symptoms of arsenical poisoning, especially the burning sensation and vomiting, usually come on within an hour; although in a few instances not under six or eight hours. Considering how entirely empty this patient's stomach was, it seems a little remarkable that these symptoms did not supervene under nearly two hours.

Thirdly: We see the practical usefulness of repeated emetics. Had these not been continued she might have died from the effects of that portion of the poison vomited in the second instance. There was probably enough left, after the first quantity was ejected, to have killed half a dozen persons, if it had not been either vomited, or entirely neutralized by the iron.

Fourthly: It may not be known to all our medical friends that the ferri ox. hyd. is put up in bottles, ready to be permanently kept, and instantly used when needed, and that single bottles of it can be procured at the drug houses. Mr. Proctor, of Philadelphia, prepares this article, and his preparation is reliable; and other manufactures may be equally so. Every physician should either have the iron, or know at what drug store it can instantly be obtained.

Lastly: Every person who has seen cases of poisoning by arsenic must have noticed its remarkable effect upon those nerves of organic life distributed to the stomach—producing extreme faintness and almost absolute prostration and collapse. The respiratory and circulating functions, as well as the nerve power of the entire system, are most powerfully affected by the direct and sympathetic action of arsenic, and other poisons, upon this system of nerves. In fact, the impression of medicines, as well as of poisons, upon the nerves of organic life, is one eminently worthy of the study of every physician; and the relative absorption of different medicines by the mucous membrane, and the conditions of that absorption, is a subject to be kept constantly in view by every person who would administer remedies intelligently and successfully.

No. 111 E. 82d street, New York.

A Singular Case of Strangulated Inguinal Hernia (Epiplocele, with Dropsy of the Omental Sac). Successful Operation.*

BY EDWIN FREEMAN, M. D.,

Professor of Anatomy in the Eclectic Medical College of the City of New York.

On January 14th, 1867, I was solicited by Dr. Miles, of this city, to operate on Mrs. Taylor, a lady, about thirty years of age, who was suffering from strangulated hernia, and was in great danger. I found the patient with a tumor in the right inguinal region, extending in the direction of and into the inguinal canal, about as large as a mediumsized orange, round external to the external ring, very tense and unyielding, and extremely sensitive to pressure, or even to She said that it was much larger and firmer than on the evening before, and her suffering from it was very great, the inflammation evidently extending to the adjacent portion of the peritoneum. The hernia had been out about three weeks, with a considerable occasional pain; but she had neglected to have her physician see her to reduce it, as had usually been done. For the last five or six days it had been strangulated, and on the 11th of January, when he was called in, it could not be returned. She was first ruptured on the right side, five years ago, and on the left three years ago, by straining, while lifting, and so was ruptured on both sides. The doctor reduced it a number of times, and for a while she wore a truss. For the last six or seven months her right side only had given her any trouble.

Various efforts to reduce it by taxis had been made previous to my being called in, but without success. Tobacco poultices, alternated with bags of ice, applied to the tumor, were also unsuccessful. Indeed all measures previously used had been of no avail, except to aggravate the case. She had had two operations from the bowel since the strangulation, one from a dose of oil, another from a dose of pills, and there had not been at any time stercoraceous vomiting.

^{*} Read before the Eclectic Medical Society of the City of New York Vol. II.—No. 10.

From this it was evident, to me, that the bowel was not included in the hernial tumor; that it was a protrusion of the omentum, with whatever other aggravating features there might be; and I expressed such to be my opinion. possible, however, that the operation might be a mere evacuation of the contents of the lower bowel. After consultation with Drs. Miles and Linn, his associates in practice, and Prof. Youart, who accompanied me, we concluded to try taxis again, persistently, until satisfied that that would not return it; then to try taxis with the hips elevated, so as to incline the body to an angle of at least forty-five degrees; and, lastly, to force a large injection into the bowel, and see what would be the result. Neither of the first two measures made any impression on the tumor; the last evacuated the bowels. It was then thought best to administer an anæsthetic, and try taxis, and, in the event of its not succeeding, to operate. A mixture of equal parts of chloroform and ether was then carefully administered by Dr. Miles. It was fully half an hour before she was completely under its influence, and at the latter part of the operation, the chloroform alone was used. She was obliged to inhale so much of the anæsthetic at first, that before the operation was half over she ceased to breathe, but was recovered by using actively and carefully Sir Marshall Hall's method of restoring suspended respiration, which in my hands has always proved successful when there is the same result from the use of an anæsthetic. When she was fully etherized, I made an incision, about three inches in length, over the neck of the sac, in the direction of the axis of the inguinal canal, and divided upon a director the several layers, until the sac was fully exposed. Whenthe external ring was reached, I found the fibres of the intercolumnar fascia pressing so tightly upon the neck of the tumor as to be of itself a sufficient cause of strangulation. Those were severed by cutting upwards, guided by a director, which was with difficulty insinuated beneath. Still no impression could be made upon the tumor, and I then took up and divided several other thin laminæ, such as it is always possible to raise, where all the natural coverings and

the connective tissue are so thickened and indurated by surrounding inflammation. After exploring, with my finger, to the internal ring, and finding no further stricture either there or in the canal, I concluded to open the sac, which appeared of a gray color, indurated, tense, firm, and thicker and tougher than the hernial sac usually appears. By pinching up with the forceps and cutting a small portion of the sac, a slight opening was made, through which a large quantity of water gushed out with a considerable force, and continued to run until at least a pint had escaped.

I immediately passed into it my director, and, cutting upward and forward upon it, I opened the sac sufficiently to explore it and examine its contents. There was no intestine in the sac, and it was continuous with a large sac in the abdominal cavity, through the inguinal rings, or the canal of Nuck. I passed my finger into the cavity, and explored in each direction. The boundary of the internal sac seemed to be nearly opposite the umbilicus above, beyond the median line to the left, and extending but a little to the right of the ring. There was no contained intestine, and none to be felt in any direction. It had contained water, which was evacuated on first opening the sac. The fluid, on escaping, had something of the appearance of light-colored urine, but not the urinous odor. The wall of the external sac appeared thick enough to be the wall of the bladder, but on passing the catheter into the bladder, and pressing towards the finger in the sac, the separate cavities were determined. From the appearance presented, and all the circumstances of the case, I concluded that, for the last three weeks, there had been hernia of the omentum; that the inflammation developed in that sac had resulted in effusion into it; that the pressure outward of the effusion had consolidated it with the proper hernial sac, and that its limits within the abdomen were produced by a glueing together of the walls of the sac, from the same or some previous inflammation,—for I have observed that, in a great majority of subjects examined where there has been no such protrusion, the walls of this sac are adhered together.

Before closing the wound it seemed best to adopt some measures by which the neck of the sac should be closed, and the sac itself permanently obliterated, so as to prevent any subsequent protrusion. I therefore passed a silk ligature around the neck of the sac, by means of a curved needle, and tied it sufficiently tight to close it up completely, but not sufficiently to produce mortification of the sac and its consequent sloughing. I thought that the handling of the sac would be sufficient to create a considerable inflammation, sufficient, both internally and externally, in connection with slight pressure, to produce obliteration, and in this I was not disappointed. I then closed the wound with interrupted sutures and adhesive straps, leaving the long ends of the ligature hanging out. Thus far we were successful, and the anæsthesia having passed off, the patient knew nothing of the operation. We agreed to apply a slight compress and a figure-of-eight bandage around the hips and thigh. A cloth was laid over the wound, extending to the left and right over the hypogastric and border of the right iliac region, wet with

B	Tinc. Aconiti, Rad.	7 3	i.	
	Tinc. Arnicæ,	Z 3	iv.	
	Aquæ,	3	xvi.	M.

the cloth to be kept constantly moist. An opium pill was administered, and she was directed to take of

\mathbf{R}	Tinc. Aconiti, Rad.	gtt. xx.	
	Con. Tinc. Gelsemin.	3 i.	
	Syr. Simplicis,	3 88.	
	Aquæ Menth. Pip.	3 vij. M.	

a teaspoonful every two or three hours. She was allowed wine, beef tea, and like fluid concentrated food. She was left under the care of Drs. Miles and Linn. January 19: her strength had been supported very well. There was slight peritonitis, which was kept under by the gelseminum and aconite and the wet compress. I took out the sutures. January 22: she has had a slight chill. The doctor is giving her

B.Quiniæ Sulph.3 i.Tinc. Ferri Mur.3 ij.Aquæ dest.3 xij.

A dessert-spoonful three times a day.

She improved from this onward. The ligature was wound around a small cylinder of adhesive plaster, and tension kept upon it by turning it every day. It came out February 3d, passing entirely through the neck of the sac. The external wound then completely closed up. She is now able to sit up, and feels nearly as strong on that side as ever before the rupture, and probably will overcome all weakness, when the new adhesions and cicatrix shall have had time to take on the firmness of the other tissues. I know of no better agent for a local application for preventing peritonitis after such an operation than the aconite and arnica, sometimes combined with spts. camphoræ; and none for internal administration better than the gelseminum and aconite.

NEW YORK, No. 93 E. 17th St.

An Anencephalic Monster.

REPORTED BY S. C. CHURCH, M. D.

On the 12th inst. I was called professionally to see Mrs. ——, æt. 25; found her enceinte about six months gone, in fifth labor. She was suffering with acute pain in the left hypochondrium. I prescribed Pulv. opii et ipec. comp. grs. xv.; div. chart. No. 3. Sig. one every three hours. Also left comp. powd. Leptandrin grs. xv.; div. chart. No. 3. Sig. one every three hours. If these failed to move the bowels, ordered a dose of Ol. Ricini to be taken in the morning. Called next day and found pain had shifted to the loins (but without intermission since my last visit), with sensation of weight about the vulva, and with desire to urinate. Pain continued to grow worse, and extended over the abdomen, running toward the coccyx. Not supposing labor from continuation of pain, resumed treatment of 12th inst.

On the 14th inst., at two P. M., I was called. Found pain so acute, made an examination per vaginam; found os uteri dilated, membranes protruding, and, on account of constant pressure, thought it advisable to rupture membranes. After escape of liquor amnii, there was a cessation of pain for the period of twenty or thirty minutes, and regular labor-pains came on. My first intimation, upon second examination, was that a difficult labor was on hand, as I observed a face presentation; but by careful touch I learned that a deformed child was in utero. Hence I proceeded to deliver, which was soon accomplished, and a strange specimen of human nature was "sent into this breathing world before its time, scarce half made up," corpus sine pectore.

No more pains coming on, and failing to excite uterine contraction with remedies at hand, and there being excessive hemorrhage, I was compelled to remove placenta without pains, it being firmly adhered.

During fore part of gestation, the mother became alarmed at what she supposed to be a rat upon the bed. She made a desperate strike, and hit a favorite cat on the back of the neck, which sent it spinning to the floor. This frightened the mother, fearing she had killed it. The child she gave birth to has no neck nor head. The face is situated between the shoulders, looking heavenward. At the base and posterior of where neck should be, and where the cat was struck, is the cerebrum or encephalon (full size for fætus), without a sign of cranium or covering save the pia mater, and hangs suspended between the scapulas, seemingly by a thread. The hemispheres and longitudinal fissure are too plainly visible to be doubted.

The fœtus is preserved in my museum, in perpetuum, vel memoriam, where it can be seen by any of the professional curious.

I have been a practising physician for thirty-three years, and have never before witnessed such a remarkable phenomenon as the one under consideration.

It is necessary to add that the mother, at the time of writing, is doing well.

PATOKA, Ind.

The First Commencement of the Eclectic Medical College of the City of New York.

The Commencement exercises at the close of the first session of this promising new institution were held at the Cooper Institute on Saturday evening, February 16, 1867. The capacious hall was crowded to overflowing with a brilliant and unusually intelligent and evidently interested auditory, hundreds of whom were ladies. The platform was occupied by the various members of the Board of Trustees, who were present on the occasion, the members of the Faculty, the reverend Clergy, and invited guests.

Prof. Robert S. Newton, President of the Faculty, introduced Rev. George W. Woodruff, of the M. E. Church, who inaugurated the exercises with prayer.

The Report of the Faculty, prepared by its Secretary, Prof. Paul W. Allen, was then read, and received with the closest attention by the immense audience.

The following is the Report of the present session, by the Secretary of the Faculty, Paul W. Allen, M. D.:

We are this evening assembled to hold the Commencement exercises of the first session of the "Eclectic Medical College of the City of New York." This institution was chartered by the Legislature of this State on the 22d of April, The trustees, after fully maturing their plans for a 1865. course of instruction, and having secured a Faculty of professors for the several departments of medical and surgical science, issued their announcement to the profession and the public for the course of lectures just now closed. ing was secured for the lectures, in a situation central in its position, and from which a direct and easy access could be had to the various hospitals and infirmaries of this metropolitan city. The building afforded excellent accommodations for a general lecture-room, for an anatomical and surgical amphitheatre, and for a library-room.

A Dispensary was provided to receive, for gratuitous treatment, all the afflicted who might desire to secure the superior advantages of Eclectic Medicine and Surgery. The

examination of, and prescribing for, such patients were, in most cases, in the presence of the class, and have afforded an excellent opportunity for clinical lectures from the several professors. This gave the students an opportunity to compare the treatment adopted along with that allopathic medication seen at the different hospitals, and also to judge of the relative results or success of the different systems of medical practice. No American city—and perhaps no European—affords so ample opportunities for observation in hospitals, and for the study of ophthalmic medicine, and other specialties, as New York. Our students have fully availed themselves of these advantages, and have seen many diseases and witnessed many surgical operations which would not have been met with in years of ordinary practice.

From the middle of October last to the present time, a period of four months, our class of 40 members have devoted themselves constantly and thoroughly to the didactic lectures, to clinical lectures, and to the visitation of hospitals. of these students were in attendance upon lectures for the first term, some had attended one or more previous courses, and, in some instances, they had completed their studies and graduated more than ten years ago, and came to this College for the purpose of making themselves acquainted with the numerous discoveries and improvements which have since been made in eclectic medicine and surgery, since the days of their former pupilage, and also to enjoy those opportunities for the study of specialties so abundant in this city. Nor can we omit to mention that nearly all our students have been very faithful in their evening studies in practical anatomy, ample and excellent material for which has been supplied, while the Professor of Anatomy has given his entire evenings to the service of the class.

Our number of graduates is 11; of ad eundem graduates, 10; a small number, but one which, if we may speak in behalf of the Faculty, we may be permitted to say will, as we believe, do honor to their Alma Mater.

Our impression also is that our graduates and other students are deeply devoted to the peculiar doctrines of Ameri-

can Eclecticism; peculiar, in that we select our remedies from every school of practice and from all sources with impartiality; peculiar, in that we reject bloodletting and all other measures which are extremely depletive and exhausting; peculiar, in that we object to mercury, arsenic, and other mineral poisons; and peculiar, also, in that we are actively discovering and developing numerous remedies of inestimable value, from the fields and forests of our own country. The graduates of the "Eclectic Medical College of the City of New York" will, now and hereafter, go forth belonging to no medical party, except so far as they are compelled to be a party, in order that they may be true to themselves as the believers in, and exponents and defenders of, the party of universal and progressive medical science.

President Newton next announced the names of the graduating class, as follows:

NAMES OF THE GRADUATES.

Prince A. Morrow	.Kentucky.
John Bricker	. Iowa.
John Conoway	.Iowa.
WILLIAM R. MERWIN	. Missouri.
EDWIN H. MILLINGTON	.New York.
James A. Morris	.New Jersey.
CHARLES W. Dolley	.Michigan.
WILLIAM R. HAYDEN	.New York.
M. B. HAYDEN	.New York.
J. B. Mix	.New York.
H. H. PRATT	.New York.

NAMES OF THE ad eundem GRADUATES

DENNIS E. SMITH	.New York.
JOHN S. PRETTYMAN	. Delaware.
HERMAN BOSKOWITZ	.New York.
C. Edwin Miles	. Massachusetts.
JOSEPH JACKSON	. Massachusetts.
B. J. Stowe	.New York.
H. E. FIRTH	New York.
H. M. Sweet	.New York.
DAVID WILLCOCKS	.New York.
James A. Henshall	.Wisconsin.
H. M. SWEET DAVID WILLCOCKS	.New YorkNew York.

After which he introduced Dr. Alexander Wilder, editor of the "Evening Post," and Secretary of the Board of Trustees (the delegated representative of the venerable President of the Board, Hon. Wm. F. Havemeyer), who delivered the following brief and appropriate address to the class, during which he presented each member of the graduating class with the first Diplomas of the Eclectic Medical College of the city of New York.

DR. WILDER'S REMARKS.

"The vocation of the physician is one of the most necessary and important of the callings connected with our social life. When prostrated by disease, every one seeks his aid, feeling secure when that is obtained that the principal service has been rendered, and that his is now the responsibility. In these circumstances it is for the physician to meet his duties with fidelity and conscientiously, and to perform them fearlessly. Then, whatever may be the result, he has no cause to blame himself for any reprehensible neglect of his obligations to his patients.

"You have made choice, I trust a wise one, of this arduous and responsible vocation. I appeal to you to accept its varied duties with the strictest regard to what is due between you and those with whom you have to do. Maintain the dignity of your calling. You will be brought into terms of the closest confidence with patients and families. Cherish that confidence as sacredly and inviolably as you would maintain a principle of religion, suffering no levity or moment of passion to overcome your fidelity. It is your vocation to bring hope where there has been despondency, to minister life and health to those ready to perish, to mitigate the fierce anguish that racks and rends the human frame. Let that mission, for your own sake, for the sake of those with whom you have to do, for the sake of the profession which you have adopted, be performed with earnestness, intelligently, with zeal, and even with enthusiasm.

"You have adopted the doctrines and ethics of the Eclectic School of Medicine. The field occupied by the so-

called regular practice covers the very ground which this school professes to hold. If it had consented, with a generous and intelligent liberality, to permit and acknowledge - the meritorious service and actual scientific attainments of our friends, we would have had no more to ask. But a narrow conservatism,—and proscriptive conservatism is always narrow, retrogressive, and illiberal,—has prevented this. We could not be progressive in idea and practice without transcending the limits which had been assigned, saying nothing about secret cliques and illiberal regulations, by which a favored number have sought to monopolize the honors and emoluments to which all are alike privileged to aspire. There has been a landmark and a wall of partition established, and it now becomes the duty, and should be the ambition, of the Eclectic to promote by all honorable exertions the prosperity and scientific advancement of the branch which he has adopted.

"A pleasing duty now devolves upon me. The voice of your instructors has recommended you as worthy to be invested with the rank and honors of the physician. I therefore, in the name of the Faculty and of the Trustees of this College, by virtue of the authority granted by the laws of the State of New York, do confer upon each and severally, the degree of Doctor of Medicine, with the rights, privileges, and immunities pertaining to that dignity.

"With this assumption of your new duties, I entreat you to remember the old maxim, that every one is a debtor to his profession. As he derives from it his means of usefulness as well as of support, he should in return add to its scope of scientific research, to its dignity, to its importance. Let the profession be the better off because you have adopted it for your own. Maintain your professional and other relations with the strictest regard for the right; discharge your duties with zeal, faithfulness, and the strictest delicacy; and magnify your vocation. In conclusion, I beg you to accept my best and most cordial wishes for your future—for your prosperity, your happiness, and your health."

President Newton followed Dr. Wilder in a brief, impressive, and eminently appropriate address, embodying numerous valuable practical suggestions, much sound advice, and some touching words of farewell to the graduates. His remarks were received with the most enthusiastic applause by all present.

The valedictory address was delivered by John Bricker, M. D., who was introduced by President Newton. This address was couched in simple but forcible language, and indicated rare ability, and a high character on the part of its too modest author, who has left us no trace of his neatly-written manuscript to copy or quote from, which we most certainly should do, had Dr. Bricker allowed us a chance at his address. The valedictory was received with gratifying tokens of satisfaction on the part of the class and all present. An address in behalf of the Board of Trustees was next made by the Corresponding Secretary, Mr. Henri L. Stuart.

MR. STUART'S ADDRESS.

"Ladies and gentlemen of the graduating class, and friends of the good cause which we here represent:—The remarks I shall make would more fittingly come from the lips of the venerable and distinguished President of the Board of Trustees, Hon. William F. Havemeyer; but he is unavoidably absent, as is our excellent Vice-President, the Rev. Dr. Strickland. The originating and founding of the Eclectic Medical College of the City of New York was the result of years of conviction and effort on the part of many persons; but the highest meed of praise is due to the widelyknown and respected Treasurer of the Board of Trustees, Mr. William Moller. This gentleman, more than ten years since, with Mr. Albert Havemeyer, another member of the Board of Trustees, advanced the sum of \$10,000 to establish a laboratory and manufactory of the various Eclectic remedies then discovered. In this enterprise they had the powerful co-operation and aid of Prof. Robert S. Newton, then editor of the Eclectic Medical Journal—a position he held for many years at Cincinnati, Ohio. This enterprise has grown into

what is now known as "Keith's Concentrated Preparations," and a large fortune to Dr. Keith himself, due almost wholly to the outlay of money and professional influence on the part of Messrs. Moller, Havemeyer, Prof. Newton, and the members of the Eclectic medical profession in all parts of the country, who were induced to test and use these remedies mainly through the editorial endorsements, extending through a series of years, published in the Eclectic Medical Journal. Mr. Moller at that time went even farther than this. offered to purchase or build a suitable college edifice, and to liberally endow it, if Prof. Newton would leave Cincinnati, and take charge of it. Dr. Newton was unable to make his home in New York at that time; but in 1863 he came here, and he found Mr. Moller still a staunch and fast friend; and the Eclectic Medical College, which has just closed its first session by the awarding of its first diplomas to its first graduating class in our presence here to-night, is a result of the combined action of Mr. William Moller, Dr. Robert S. Newton, Dr. Alexander Wilder, Dr. William W. Hadley, Messrs. Havemeyer, Oliver Charlick, and other enlightened and determined friends of progressive medicine, in and out of the Board of Trustees and of the profession. These men, animated by a solemn conviction that the time had fully come when a great central American Eclectic school of medicine could be founded, carried forward, and sustained to a permanent success in the city of New York, procured a most liberal charter from the State Legislature for such an institution. They were also fully convinced of the lamentable fact that, since the days of Paracelsus and the introduction of mercury and other poisonous mineral agents into use as medicines, there has been a gradual deterioration in the physical stamina of the people in all civilized countries where this barbarous practice has prevailed, until, at this moment, by statistics and general consent, there is not one person in ten,—man, woman, or child—in this country, possessing the inestimable blessing of a sound natural constitution, unsapped by the insidious, far-reaching, and potent foes of health, happiness, and life, some of the names of which I here enumerate: they are mercury, antimony, arsenic, lead; depletion, and the sanguinary-heroic system known as Allopathy, in which these horrible agents are the all-prevailing and dominant means used by practitioners of medicine, who claim to be "regular," to combat disease and sustain the vital forces of the human system, when attacked, while at the same time they denounce as quacks all who honestly and intelligently differ from them in opinion or practice.

"Deeply impressed with the truth of the foregoing considerations, the Board of Trustees, named in the charter, met, organized, and chose its officers, and appointed an executive and other committees, and prepared a code of by-The Executive Committee, in accordance with the power delegated to it by the Board of Trustees, secured an admirably arranged and centrally located college edifice, collected apparatus and materials for the various departments, secured and appointed a competent and unusually efficient faculty, made provision for the first session, which has been successfully held and carried forward to the time when its first graduates are to go out honored and armed with the first diplomas of the new institution. A free public Dispensary has been established in connection with the College, and under the direction of its Faculty, which has afforded relief to a large number of sufferers, many of them given up as hopeless by other practitioners. This department will be permanently sustained and continued, whether the College is in session A location has been selected for a large and commodious additional college building and house of trade, for the preparation in the most perfect form and the vending of all the approved remedial agents used by the American Eclectic In this edifice will be established a school of medicine. printing office, publication office, and book-store, for the publication and sale of the American Eclectic Medical Review, and all standard Eclectic medical works; also a professional library and reading-room, and a department of Pharmacy and Dentistry. It is the purpose of the Board of Trustees also to endow each of the various chairs constituting the Faculty, in a way that will enable each occupant of the same, by his individual efforts, to increase indefinitely his annual income from such endowment. Application will be made to the Common Council for a small sum to assist in supporting the free Dispensary; and, at the proper time, a similar application will be made to the State Legislature for some assistance in sustaining an Eclectic Medical Hospital, which forms a part of the chartered privileges granted to the Eclectic Medical College of the City of New York.

"It is the opinion of the Board of Trustees that the Legislature ought to divide the wards of existing hospitals supported at the expense of the public treasury, giving all schools of medicine a full and ample opportunity to test the comparative merits of the distinctive remedies and practice of each. They believe that the best interests of all classes of the community, as well as common justice and fairness, require this to be done. The Board would be distinctly understood as being in favor of giving woman an equal right and opportunity with man to achieve sound professional medical culture, under equal conditions, in institutions organized especially for their instruction and benefit, and where that is impracticable or impossible, suitable provision should be made, in connection with other institutions, to meet fairly and liberally any such demands made by and in behalf of A strong reason with the Board for this conviction is found in the unquestionable fact, that the ailments of women and children furnish full seventy per cent. of all the practice and emolument making up the aggregate of fees paid to the practitioners of medicine under the most favorable conditions and practice, and this proportion is even much greater wherever the allopathic practice has exclusively prevailed.

"The Board have noticed the strong opposition which has prevailed in the Bellevue Hospital Medical College to granting woman equal right to medical culture and clinical observation in that institution, and have carefully weighed the reasons offered for and against the course there pursued, and are decidedly of the opinion that that course was unjustifiable, unwise, and wholly indefensible on any fair and manly

grounds whatever. Give woman a fair and equal chance, with no prejudice or embarrassing restrictions, and if she fails, under these circumstances, to maintain her professional status, she will gradually and naturally turn to other fields of labor and occupation. 'Good nursing is often more important than medicine in the restoration of the diseased to health,' was once remarked to me by my late venerable friend, Dr. John W. Francis; 'but,' said he, 'this fact I did not sufficiently realize when I was a young practitioner.' Good nursing almost always devolves upon woman; and why should she not be allowed to test her powers as a physician, and to strive to obtain the higher rewards of that position?

"As a member of the Board of Trustees, I desire to make a brief statement bearing upon this question, and to illustrate the chronic and unmanly illiberality which we shall have to meet at every step from the arrogant tyranny of the self-constituted regular medical profession.

"Some years since I was introduced one evening to Dr. J. Marion Sims, the humane and gifted founder of the New York State Woman's Hospital, in this city. He was an allopathic physician and surgeon,—in poor health, supposed to be standing on the verge of the grave, in fact—who had made an important discovery in practical surgery of inestimable value to woman and society, and one, too, which has since given his name to all the world as a benefactor and man of genius. This man, when I first saw him, stood alone and almost friendless among the hundreds of his fellow-practitioners in medicine and surgery in this city. He could not even get a hearing in one of the allopathic medical schools of this city. And one well-known practitioner actually borrowed Dr. Sims's private case of instruments (the only ones then in existence), invented as a part of his discovery, to perform Dr. Sims's own operation in the City Hospital, while being guilty of the gross discourtesy of not inviting Dr. Sims to witness a first attempt to perform his great operation with his own instruments. I saw at once the merit of the discovery, and its bearing upon the interests and welfare of

woman and humanity. A meeting was organized and held in the old Stuyvesant Institute, on the evening of May 18, 1854. The newspapers were called into requisition, the rank and file of the profession were appealed to, and more than 300 of them assembled on that rainy night, with but very few of the lucky and wealthy practitioners who make the rules and take the cream of practice in this city. Dr. Sims made his statements, setting forth the necessity of establishing a hospital for the treatment of diseases of women exclusively. Then and there commenced a systematic effort which was shared in by woman in the most effective way, and which has finally resulted in a series of buildings known as the New York State Woman's Hospital, the first of which, just completed, stands on the northwest corner of the block donated by the Common Council, bounded by Lexington and Fourth. Avenues and Forty-ninth and Fiftieth Streets, in this city. Two others will soon be erected on the same block, in accordance with plans suggested to Dr. Sims by Florence Nightingale, Lady Franklin, and others eminent for philanthropy and humanity.

"In conclusion, I have to remark that, a few days since, I met Dr. Sims in this city, at the house of a mutual friend, who had been deeply interested in Dr. Sims's effort. There we saw the last annual report of the N. Y. State Woman's Hospital, and in it an anniversary address, delivered by an eminent Allopathic professor and surgeon, in which he spoke of the progressive character of American surgery, which had been recognized all over Europe—a fact mainly due to the genius and extraordinary skill of Dr. Sims, whose name was not even mentioned, in the address or report, in connection with the institution which he had originated and created. My advice to Eclectics, be they men or women, is to work as a unit and to battle aggressively against the professional despotism and illiberality such as I have just indicated, and the right will surely prevail.

"I now give place, and introduce one whose voice and pen are potential in encouraging and sustaining all intelligent and practical efforts for improving the condition of all classes of the people. Ladies and gentlemen, my friend, the Hon. Horace Greeley."

MR. GREELEY'S ADDRESS.

"I do not appear as the advocate of any particular school of medicine, nor the champion of any special medical system or theory. I look upon the establishment of an Eclectic Medical College in this city as a protest against abuses and as an evidence of reform. It is a palpable expression of a desire for free thought. Resistance to orthodoxy, I think, is doing good in the world. The school that stands up in opposition to the action of two thousand years is an argument of courage and determination based on purpose and conviction. Such a school might meet opposition, persecution, perhaps certainly intolerance. The men who were stoned to death in their day, and the stones used afterwards to build their monuments, were the men who initiated radical changes, instituted great good. I would ask the new Eclectic school to consider the matter of medical etiquette. I see no reason why I should not call on my neighbors or friends of the allopathic, homeopathic, or eclectic schools to advise for my child when it is sick. Yet the intolerance of existing professional rules is such that I cannot do so without risking a wrathful refusal. cerely hope the new Eclectic school will not countenance any such middle-age folly, but that it will adopt a sensible, kindly, and manly rule of tolerance and professional good-fellowship in all such cases, no matter what school of practice may be followed. The spirit of Christian conciliation especially becomes one whose profession is to heal the sick and to prolong life. I think that the practitioners of different schools may consult together with much profit to each other. I hope that the graduates of the Eclectic Medical College of the city of New York will be animated with this kindly and charitable feeling toward all others practising their profession. I see no reason why forty or fifty rich or lucky physicians in New York should take the cream of practice here and all of the influential positions, and all of the prominence, under arbitrary rules made by themselves, which exclude the great body

of their professional co-laborers from all opportunity of competing with them on equal terms. I see no reason why hundreds of good physicians should not announce themselves in a modest card in the newspapers, in the various specialties of medicine or surgery in which they may believe themselves to excel. This would be a sensible thing to do certainly in any other business, and why not in medicine? Yet the intolerance of the rule-makers of old schools of medicine is such that they would crush or ostracise any of their humble followers were they to do so, notwithstanding they themselves are advertised in the most effective way in connection with their official and public positions. I wish the new school of medicine you represent, gentlemen, abundant success, and trust that you will found and build it up on the sound principles of the most enlightened liberality, and lay broad and deep the foundations of a true medical science and system of practice."

PRISIDENT NEWTON'S CONCLUDING REMARKS.

At the conclusion of Mr. Greeley's address, the President of the Faculty, Prof. Newton, stated that the American Eclectic School had adopted a code of ethics which allowed consultations with any intelligent and properly accredited practitioner of any school of medicine, no matter how divergent their views or practice. He also said that the same code specially allowed the privilege of reasonable and proper advertising in the public journals.

The closing prayer and benediction were made in a very solemn and impressive manner by Rev. Charles F. Deems.

MATRICULANTS OF THE SESSION, 1866-7.

ALLEN, W. A	New York.
Allen, C. S	
Archer, W	
Archer, C. H	-
Bricker, J	
Boskowitz, H., M. D	
BAILEY, S. B., M. D	
CONOWAY, J., M. D	_

DAY, J	. New York.
Donelson, J. E	
Dolley, C. W	
Firth, L. B	
Firth, H. E., M. D	
Fitch, J. H	
GREGORY, O. S., M. D	
HERMANOE, H	
HAYDEN, W. R.	
HAYDEN, M. B	
Jones, L. A	
JACOBSON, A. E., M. D	
Morrow, P. A	
Merwin, Wm. R	•
MILLINGTON, E. H.	
Morris, J. A., M. D.	
MoElheny J	_
Munn, S. B	•
Mix, J. B	
PLATT, S. F	_
PRATT, H. H.	
Rude, M. E	
STALNAKER, A. G	
SPRAGUE, S., M. D	
SPRAGUE, C. S	
SMITH, D. E., M. D	
STOW, B. J., M. D	
Schell, C. C.	
Sweet, H. M., M. D	
STODDARD, G. R	
WILLCOOKS, D., M.D	
WRIGHT, E. V	

PERISCOPE.

Portability and Communicability of Cholera.

The following cases, illustrating the portability and communicability of cholera, are communicated to the Cincinnati Lancet and Observer by Dr. W. H. Mussey:

"A Mr. Falrod died of Cholera in Cincinnati. His father took the body to Portsmouth, Ohio. During the ex-

ercises in the church, the father was taken sick with the cholera and died the same night. A daughter was then taken sick and died. The mother also died. Another daughter who had taken care of the family, but had returned to the house where she resided, was taken sick and died the next day. There was no cholera at that time in Portsmouth, and these four cases of death are traceable to the case from Cincinnati.

"A gentleman in Greenup County, Ky., had been in Louisville and returned home, having a diarrhea. The night of his arrival, his wife was seized with the cholera and died the next day. She had not been from the farm for a long time, and had no communication with the outside world but by the return of her husband from a cholera region, having a choleraic diarrhea. It is claimed by high authority, that persons having choleraic diarrhea, can communicate the disease to others, though they may not die of the disease themselves.

"A child named Kettle, nine years old, died a week ago last Sunday night on Elm Street (in this city) west side, four doors north of the canal. At the funeral services on Monday, a playmate, the child of a Mr. Miller (residing two or three doors from Mr. Kettle), kissed the corpse, was taken sick, and died of cholera on Wednesday."

The Past and Present School of Paris,

There was a time when the French capital was looked upon by the medical profession throughout the world as the one and only seat of science, where alone the grand truths of our art could be discovered and taught. Students from every country went thither to complete their studies and to see the men whose names had been upon the lips of their teachers all through their early instructions at home as demigods in science, and whose opinions they had been taught to receive unchallenged as fixed principles. Even the hospitals which were associated with their teachings became famous, and Hôtel Dieu, La Pitié, La Charité, du Midi, St. Louis,

were as familiar and classic names to the student of medicine everywhere as the Parthenon and Forum had been during school and college days. The distinguished men who composed the faculty were then at the height of their fame, and formed a body whose brilliant reputation was fully deserved and has never been equalled. Paris had then no rival as a school of medicine; she was the acknowledged front and centre of science. This was only a quarter of a century or less ago; but what position does she hold now? The earnest students of other countries no longer visit her exclusively, or even first or second, to complete their general studies, or to perfect themselves in any special branch of our art, nor is French now the universal or most important language of science, as it once was. The very names which then commanded such world-wide respect are now almost memories associated with the past, and are no more the representatives of the medicine of to-day.

What is the cause of this decadence? Why is it that the Wiener Schule holds at this moment the place then occupied by the Ecole de Médecine? The great masters of Paris have not died out and left their places to be filled by smaller men in Vienna, for, with one or two exceptions, the roll of French professors bears the same distinguished names that it did twenty-five years ago. Other causes have wrought the change. Gradually the philosophic German mind, so skeptical and irreverent as to accept no dogmas unchallenged, and so patient and industrious in following the suggestions of nature to their very source, began to make itself heard. This influence, at first felt in small things, and expressed in special directions, soon became an acknowledged power as the careful observations of devoted students -men who cared for nothing else in life than their studies, who had no higher ambition than their scientific reputation, who knew no other pleasure than was to be found in the laboratory or hospital, and who never aspired to become rich became known. Such men as these were called together, as their names and works attracted attention, and formed the Vienna School, a body of special students, in no way men of brilliant genius, but keen observers and accomplished teachers. It is this devotion to study in special directions as the prime object of their lives—science before wealth—which has made German medicine what it is. It has given us Rokitansky, Virchow, and Förster in pathology; Wünderlich, Oppolzer, Skoda, and Frerichs, in medicine; Hyrtl in anatomy; Brücke and Ludwig in physiology; Jäeger, Graefe, Donders and Arlt, Hebra, Sigmund, Zeissl, and Scanzoni in special departments; Liebig, Lehmann, Scherer in analytical chemistry, and many other distinguished instructors who might be mentioned. It has made a knowledge of the German language a necessity to all who would know anything of the modern advances in science, and draws our schools to Vienna and Berlin as the great schools of medicine.

In the mean time, Paris has been living chiefly on the reputation of her past greatness, and the slight progress she has made has seemed complete stagnation by the side of the vast advance of her indefatigable Saxon neighbors. She is at last awaking to the fact that her present state is not equal to her former splendor, and is taking steps to recover her lost position in the scientific world. As will be seen by the changes announced in her faculty below, she is beginning her reformation in earnest. It is workers she wants, not great names, and, if she can secure the former, she may in time make herself again a leader in medicine.

EDITORIAL.

The Eclectic Medical College of the City of New York.

We have a sincere gratification, which we feel certain will be shared in by every friend of progressive medical science in all parts of the country, in announcing that the Eclectic Medical College of the City of New York, is a fixed fact. Its first session has been held, and brought to a successful close, having had a class of forty members, of which eleven were graduated. The American Eclectic

Medical Review makes in its current number—the "Tenth" of the first year of its life, a full report of the commencement exercises of the new institution. This report, which was published substantially in all of the great leading journals of New York, including the New York Daily and Weekly Tribune, will be read with more than usual interest, as it embodies the plans of the Beard of Trustees, and a brief, but most forcible and pertinent address from the distinguished and enlightened journalist and statesman, Horace Greeley. The new institution starts under the most favorable auspices, and will impart the most advanced and enlightened theory and practice of Eclectic Medical and Surgical science, to its successive classes. Its Faculty are among the most enlightened and enterprising, and their labors have been carried on in a spirit of good fellowship and unity, which could not be excelled.

American Eclecticism in medicine, is a natural outgrowth of the individualism and self-reliance which are such marked characteristics of the American people. It is the vigorous and enterprising child of our free institutions,-of our tendency to unfettered thought and action, and from its very nature, must be aggressive where old errors, musty formulas, and arbitrary rules originating in the old-world aristocracies and guilds are concerned. The mission of the Eclectic Medical College of the City of New York, will be to open its doors to all aspirants for sound medical culture, on eclectic and progressive principles on such liberal and enlightened terms, as shall accord with the dignity of American citizenship and manhood. No petty or contemptible prejudices of creed, or of caste will be allowed to mar or gnarl its ethical code. It will be a model professional institution of our land and time, and its influence upon the future well-being of medical science, and the profession of medicine and of society at large, will be far-reaching and beneficent beyond what has ever been achieved before, we heartily believe. Its successive Boards of Trustees and Faculties may pass away, but the Eclectic Medical College of the City of New York will from its broad and deeply laid foundations rise through coming years, as a column of rare proportions, until it shall stand crowned with the substantial honors of generations, centuries and eras of a vigorous intellectual life.

This may sound to some like rhapsody, or the day dream of an idler, but the tendencies of the age are progressive, and the wonderful successes which have attended great material enterprises in our

day, afford ample indicia to the observant and persistent worker, to warrant the glowing language of the foregoing paragraph. The success of the Eclectic Medical College of the City of New York will give an added influence and power to other liberal schools of medicine in all parts of the country, and it will exercise a most invigorating and healthful influence to organize, unite, and consolidate the Eclectic Medical profession in all parts of the country, and the world.

Our State Medical Societies, and our great National Eclectic Medical Association will all be directly interested in its welfare and State and National Legislatures will learn healthful development. to recognize our influence, our singleness of purpose, our intelligence, our skill, our rights, and our power under the lead of this great The American Eclectic Medical Review will national institution. issue more than ten thousand copies of its present number, in connection with its announcement for its next session in October, of the present year, and this large number will be placed in the hands of many physicians of all schools. From present indications, we have reason to believe that we shall matriculate more than quadruple the number of students at the commencement of the next session, than were matriculated at the commencement of the session just closed.

Progress.

It is with feelings of no ordinary nature, that we note the progress of Eclecticism. The several thousand physicians who have received their medical education in the Eclectic Medical Colleges are by no means idle. With an indefatigability of purpose, which we believe belongs exclusively to the Eclectic profession, this body of noble men, with the cynosure of Right and Truth before them, are constantly progressing onward, and not only adding greatly to our materia medica, but are adding daily other physicians, their compeers, to the great Eclectic body. There was a day, when the Allopathic profession was regarded by the Eclectic as its most formidable and inveterate foe and antagonist. But how the scene has changed! It is from the Allopathic ranks that we are now receiving many of our most valued and learned co-laborers. As it is the most independent and thinking physician who is most prone to break through the fetters of bigotry, and by the force of observation and reasoning, to

traverse the wide fields lying beyond the Allopathic fold, so must it be those very persons who come to us from the narrow field of Allopathy. It only requires that thought, free and untrammelled, shall for a time exercise its inalienable right, that the old fogy of to-day may be the free and unfettered Eclectic of to-morrow.

The Allopathic physician of Europe resembles the Eclectic of the United States much more closely, in his practice, than the same class of practitioners of this country. It is seldom that the more enlightened European physicians resort to the lancet, or to the poisonous mineral drugs so profusely and universally used by the allopathic here. This we know by an intercourse of several years with some of the most illustrious physicians of Europe. They are repudiating these destroyers of human life, and resorting to the more simple means of the American Eclectics. At this time almost every steamer conveys large quantities of Eclectic remedies to Europe. As the human mind continues to progress, so will Allopathy approach Eclecticism, until finally the entire profession, the world over, will have adopted that enlightened method of practice which has been so auspiciously begun by the Eclectics of the present day.

When we look over the statistics of the Eclectic medical profession throughout the United States and the Canadas, we are as much surprised as we are gratified at the great result which the last decade has brought forth. There is scarcely a county in the States or Canadas, but that contains its Eclectic physician, who is universally a busy, active, intelligent gentleman, devoted to his profession, laboring day and night to perfect himself in the intricate science of curing disease. With such men as these for our vanguard, the great army of Eclecticism will press onward to continued victory.

Eclecticism.

When we think how important the mission of the physician is how much the community depends upon the skill and judgment of those who ought to be the dispensers of health-inducing remedies how dear is every man's life—it would seem that common benevolence, Christian charity, and individual kindness, would induce those who have assumed the responsibilities of the physician to pause, lay aside their prejudices, and examine the claims of Eclecticism; which asks only a trial, fair and judicious; and if it cannot stand the tests of examination and application, let it give place to some other more correct system. Here is a system of practice which is founded on reason and the highest acquirements of other systems—a system which carefully examines every new principle, tests every new remedy, adopts the demonstrative facts and principles of all systems, and presents much to the physician unknown to the other schools—which, in short, courts investigation—which demonstrates its correctness by its successful results—and yet many practitioners turn a deaf ear to its merits. It would seem that many physicians do not want to know the best means of curing disease. But young men, who have reputations to gain, are beginning to learn its worth, and we have an abiding faith that all the sects must soon give way to the onward march of this republican and rational system of medicine.

"Irregulars" versus "Regulars."

In his opening address to the Medical Society (Allopathic) of the State of New York, Dr. James C. Hutchinson took occasion to say, that "an act virtually empowering the Society to regulate the conditions of membership, and to exercise proper discipline in needed cases, &c., had been passed by the legislature, but, in a spirit of mistaken justice, the same privileges had likewise been extended to the irregular organizations." The Pharisees, when they prayed, commended their own righteousness; also, there are some nations whom we consider comparatively ignorant, but who, to their own vision, are at the acme of civilization, while all the rest of the world are barbarians; so with Dr. Hutchinson and his clique. Although there are organizations conforming to all the requirements of the law, in reference to membership and discipline, he is pleased to style them "irregular." Their members must, by law, be graduates of some regularly chartered medical college, and so must those of the society to which he belongs. Where, then, is the difference? Is the teaching different in the colleges in the fundamental branches of medicine? Anatomy is the same in all the colleges, and is taught as thoroughly; physiology is the same; pathology is the same; materia medica, surgery, the practice of medicine and obstetrics are the same, except as to the latest improvements and discoveries, which are generally with those whom the Doctor styles irregulars. If the teaching, then, be not fundamentally different, except as before mentioned, and equally thorough, is it in the preliminary qualifications that they claim the

right to be styled regular? The law, however, prescribes what those shall be, and all are presumed to abide by its demands. The Doctor, although he recommends a "systematic course of reading and examination," admits that "office instruction is often a mere sham;" and one would think that college instruction is also, from the kind of graduates turned out of some of the so-called regular medical colleges. As a general rule, the office instruction of those irregular practitioners is not "mere sham," for there is business enough done in them to give to the student, in connection with his reading, a thorough training in the elementary parts of medical science. difference is, the reform schools teach all the improvements made in the practice of medicine, while the others have been asleep; and in addition, they teach and allow a manly independence of thought and action, to prescribe according to the best dictates of their judgment; nor do they seek to bind them with oaths, or trammel them with obsolete rules or formulæ. How contemptible, in view of this, is the policy recommended by the committee on suggestions to the president's inaugural address!—and reform physicians will please notice this—"that in the issue of college circulars it be distinctly stated that certificates of study from irregular practitioners will be disallowed, and that they will confer no degree upon any one avowing his intentions to practise medicine in accordance with any exclusive system." They themselves are the very essence of exclusiveness, and any departure from their way of thinking is visited with all the penalties that they have the power to inflict. What must be the self-sufficiency of the man who can say that "the opinions entertained, even by the best educated, are mere vulgar errors"! But he is compelled to admit that in this country, where the largest liberty prevails, the people have had their wits sharpened to a quick sense of their rights; and, let me add, that they are seeking and demanding their rights. medical tyranny of a few over the many, transplanted from the aristocratic systems of the old world, and more intolerant than the old ecclesiastic regime of the fifteenth century, is not indigenous to this country, and is foreign to the spirit of freedom in which we were born. We and all liberal minds protest against all such efforts to bind men's minds, and restrain them from the most free and untrammelled investigation into all truth. We reformers, under whatever name we may be known, are the Protestants in medicine, and, with flags nailed to the mast, wage unceasing war against all such efforts to trample out the spirit of freedom in our noble profession.

Eclectic Medical Society of the State of New York.

The meeting which is to be held at Saratoga Springs in June next will be one of the most important ever held. There are many subjects to be brought before the meeting of the greatest importance to the cause of Eclecticism. It is hoped that every committee will be fully prepared to report upon their special subjects. The following is a list of the various committees appointed to report at the annual meeting in June, 1867:

Annual Address, Prof. Edwin Freeman, M. D.; Essayists, H. E. Firth, M. D., H. C. Gazlay, M. D.; Surgery, Prof. Robert S. Newton, M. D., Prof. Edwin Freeman, M. D.; Obstetrics, Horatio E. Firth, M. D., Orin Davis, M. D.; Materia Medica, Prof. Wm. W. Hadley, M. D., Andrew W. Russell, M. D.; Theory and Practice, D. E. Smith, M. D., L. Stanton, M. D.; Chemistry and Pharmacy, Prof. J. Milton Sanders, M. D., Thomas L. Harris, M. D.; Eclectic Medical Literature, Henry S. Firth, M. D., A. B. Wescott, M. D.; National Eclectic Medical Association, James T. Burdick, M. D., B. J. Stow, M. D.; United States Eclectic Pharmacopæia, Prof. Paul W. Allen, M. D., Prof. Wm. W. Hadley, M. D., Prof. Edwin Freeman, M. D., Orin Davis, M. D., Calvin S. Totman, M. D.; Committee of Arrangements for next Annual Meeting, R. Hamilton, M. D., Charles. K. Brower, M. D., Harman Pease, M. D.

The New York Academy of Medicine an Advertising Bureau.

This agency advertises what is termed by the Medical and Surgical Reporter, a novel "Cholera Preventive." We quote verbatim et literatim et punctuatim from its issue of Feb. 23d, the substance of a report from a special committee of this as-tute body to whom the novel subject was referred.

"Your Committee believe it to be the duty of the Academy of Medicine to encourage by all means in its power the study and improvement of methods for the prevention of disease; while the treatment of all diseases, in each individual case, must be left to the judgment and skill of the attending physician.

"That your Committee have examined carefully the "Deodorizing Chamber-Pot," and recommend its use as a most effective means of preventing the spread of cholera and other zymotic dis-

eases.

"That the invention consists of a hollow compartment in the lid or cover, for the reception of a suitable deodorizing compound, with an opening in the top for the emission of the neutralizing gas, thus bringing the antidote in immediate contact with the poison.

"That the invention is patented, and that the formula of an ex-

cellent disinfecting compound will accompany each vessel.

"That both the vessel and the compound are recommended to be used in all sleeping apartments and other places where chamber-pots are used."

This report was unanimously adopted by the Academy.

The Journal in question endorses this action by a most fulsome, adulatory editorial puffing of the Academy of Medicine and its novel bantling.

After reading the foregoing report of a select committee of so exclusive, notorious and self laudating a collection of "regular" Doctors—who have associated themselves under the style of the New York Academy of Medicine,—we have to stop to take breath. extraordinary attempt to win fame and distinksion not exactly at the cannon's mouth but through the muzzle of another style of great gun, to wit, a special Patent "Chamber Pot Committee" is beyond all praise and justly entitles each member of the Academy, its Committee and their editorial chronicler to wear one of the newly invented devices on their heads. This wonderful "Cholera Preventive" might be made to serve as a medium to perpetuate the sage countenances of the exclusive and erudite pundits of the Academy as an artistic border on its deodorizing cover—while the more select physiognomies of the members of the special committee might take a more exclusive and confidential place in the committeeroom below, and the brilliant editor of the Medical and Surgical Reporter himself ought to have the place of honor to fill the bill indicated by the formula which the committee assert will be supplied with each "Deodorizing Chamber Pot."

At the last meeting of the Academy, the members resolved themselves into a committee of the whole, on the report of their special committee, and made a general and special examination of this wonderful odorous utensil. Each member sat upon it, and thoroughly tested its deodorizing qualities, whereupon having satisfied themselves they decided to puff the article, even if in so doing they perpetrated an act which is in exact opposition to their code of ethics, and which exhibits them to the world as ignoramuses and to a suspicion of something more unprofessional.

The committee in making its report announced that "a prescrip-

tion for an excellent disinfecting compound will accompany each vessel," but they did not state how often that prescription would have to be renewed—nor what benefit was to accrue to the Academy of Medicine, its Drug dealers, and editorial laudator from the immense business of furnishing the human race with the new patent chamberpot and its accompanying formula so ardently commended.

Now, we do not take the ground that physicians should not advertise, for we believe that any physician who has the brains, and the independence to study, any special branch of medicine, and who has truly made himself more competent to practise it than the physician who has not devoted his entire attention to it—is justified in informing the public that he is ready to ply his calling among them.

We do not object to the Members of the Academy of Medicine for advertising for themselves, or others; but we do object to their doing so while pretending to be governed by a code of ethics which expressly forbids all advertising on the part of the members of the school to which they belong. If all advertising doctors are humbugs, the Members of the New York Academy of Medicine hold the first place and should receive historic crystallization at the hand of Barnum when he writes his next book on that delectable species.

"Sugar-Coated" Preparations.

Every practitioner, in dispensing medicines, must have observed the decided preference manifested on the part of his patients for medicines which are put up in a palatable form, and their aversion to those which are nauseating and unpleasant. become quite popular to use sugar-coated preparations, and the positive demand made for them by the public, has compelled physicians to discontinue, almost entirely, their former mode of preparing and administering similar medicines. The efforts of manufacturing chemists and druggists, to prepare medicines in an elegant and agreeable form, and at the same time to retain all their medicinal virtues, has been crowned with success. Among those who have made a speciality of preparing sugar coated pills and granules, none have achieved a more deservedly high reputation than the house of Wm. Warner & Co., Philadelphia. We have used many of their preparations, have tested their curative properties, and have found them safe, efficient and reliable. Their list embraces the officinal, and many other recipes of acknowledged excellence.

Donations to the Eclectic Medical Dispensary.

WE acknowledge with pleasure the receipt of very generous donations to our Dispensary, from the following gentlemen. Messrs. B. Keith & Co., No. 41 Liberty st.; Messrs Hornby & Pemberton, No. 41 Dey-st.; Messrs. P. B. Knapp, No. 362 Hudson-st.; Dr. Wm. R. Hayden, No. 42 Irving Place, and Mr. Renatus Bachmann, No. 101 and 103 Beekman-st. Messrs. B. Keith & Co. deserve especial thanks for their liberality.

List of Attending and Consulting Physicians and Surgeons of the Eclectic Medical Dispensary of the City of New York.

Days.	Time.	Attending Physician or Surgeon.	Consulting Physician or Surgeon.
Mondays	.2 р. м	E. H. MILLINGTON, M.D	PAUL W. ALLEN, M.D.
		O. S. GREGORY, M.D	·
		W. R. MERWIN, M.D	
		W. R. HAYDEN, M. D	
		P. A. Morrow, M.D	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·
 .		E. F. GARVIN, M.D	

NEWS AND MISCELLANY.

SULPHITE OF SODA IN ERYSIPELAS.

Dr. A. R. Edson, of Greenwich, New York, writes: "Having had considerable experience in treating erysipelas, for the past twelve years, consequently have used all of the most approved remedies for its treatment, I now give the Sulphite of Soda the decided preference. A few weeks since I was called to prescribe for a man, who was laboring under a severe attack of erysipelas, which was confined to the head and neck; the parts enormously swollen, and covered with large vesicles filled with a transparent watery fluid, the pulse hard and very rapid, tongue loaded with a brownish colored coat; there was at times partial delirium. I found that the bowels had not moved for several days. Ordered cathartic composed of podophyllum and leptandrin. After the operation of physic, gave sulphite of soda in eight-grain doses, every two hours, together with the local application of a weak solution of the iodide of potassium over the affected parts. At the expiration of twenty-four hours, discontinued external treatment. Still continued the sulphite, at intervals of three hours; at the expiration of six days, my patient was entirely well.

"I have treated several other cases of the milder form of erysipelas, with the sulphite of soda alone, with the happiest results. I have used in this disease the muriate tinct. of iron and iodide of potassium, internally administered, which is so highly recommended, but consider the above salt far superior to either, as it rarely if ever disagrees with the

stomach."

AMERICAN

ECLECTIC MEDICAL REVIEW;

A Monthly Record of Medicine

AND

THE COLLATERAL SCIENCES.

Vol. II.

APRIL, 1867.

No. 11.

ORIGINAL COMMUNICATIONS.

Carbon.

BEING THE SUBSTANCE OF A LECTURE DELIVERED BEFORE THE CLASS OF THE ECLECTIC MEDICAL COLLEGE OF NEW YORK.

BY PROF. J. MILTON SANDERS, M. D., LL. D.

"Now to the instructions of a humble friend,
Who would himself be better taught, attend.
Though blind your guide, some precepts yet unknown
We may disclose, which you may make your own."

After Horace.

Yet sage instructions to refine the soul
And raise the genius, wondrous aid impart,
Conveying inward, as they purely roll,
Strength to the mind and vigor to the heart.
When morais fail, the stains of vice disgrace
The fairest honors of the noblest race.
IRID.

In those primeval times when the earth was trodden by the formidable Deinotherium, the air inhabited by the gigantic Pterodactyl, and the waters were lashed into foam by the Icthyosaurus, the element Carbon existed in its available condition in the greatest abundance. The vast masses of compact carbonaceous matter underlying the rich soil of the greater number of our States, was then disengaged in the form of carbonic anhydride, and constituted a considerable ingredient of the atmosphere. Only a brief time previously (cosmogonically speaking), the primordial elements were dis-

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sociated, and chaos reigned supreme. But the fiat had gone forth, and chemical affinity had exerted its mighty energies. The various elemental bodies lost their repellent forces, and, suddenly gifted with those of adverse natures, arranged themselves, according to law, into combinations of symmetry, order, and beauty. In the great air-ocean surrounding this earth, there had collected many substances which are aeriform at common temperatures, while others, in accordance with their atomic attractions, had united, forming the waters of the ocean and the solid crust of the globe. In this vast aerial ocean which enveloped the earth, the great masses of carbonaceous matter, now stratified underneath our soils as bituminous and anthracite coals, then existed in the gaseous form. Instead of composing, as at the present age, only the two-thousandth of the atmosphere's weight, it then constituted a very large percentage—so much so, that had man, as he is at present constituted, been thrown into such an atmosphere, the great amount of carbon existing therein would, no doubt, have speedily terminated his existence.

A flora a thousand times more luxuriant than any at present then flourished, both upon the land and within the waters. With an avidity to which our present foliage cannot be compared, they appropriated this carbonic anhydride, so richly abounding about them, and their growth progressed correspondingly.

Feeding upon this gigantic flora were creatures no less formidable, and whose petrified excreta at the present day create astonishment and speculation among philosophers. Not organized like man were these gigantic fauna, for they breathed this mephitic carbonic anhydride freely, and its noxious, foul, and pestilential nature fell upon their lungs as harmless as the fragrant air of the tropics upon those of man.

In those primeval times, doubtless, the rays of the sun possessed a greater share of actinic power than they do at the present. This energy fell upon the gigantic foliage, and, penetrating into their cells, infused therein a power of decomposition and synthesis, fully required for the task to be performed in those early days. This carbonic anhydride, noxious and poisonous to animals of the present day, and especially to man, was now required in another and less hurtful condition. Storing within it vast quantities of the force of the fierce sun, the carbonic anhydride became organized, and formed a large portion of the cells and fibres of a luxuriant vegetation. Finally it became gradually abstracted from the atmosphere, while an equal volume of pure vital oxygen was given out by this foliage in its place. Thus the vitiated air became purified, while the wise ordinance of Providence was fulfilled in regard to the innumerable races yet to be created, in this store of vast force in the form of Light and Heat, to be appropriated by them in the furtherance of their progressive civilization.

In time this vast accumulation of vegetable matter underwent slow decay, or cremacausis, probably under water. The hydrogen and oxygen which formed a portion of its composition gradually escaped—the former only partially in some cases, and entirely in others. The masses of foliage and twigs became compacted, perhaps by some kind of pressure, and in ages those strata were formed termed coal. Thus two paramount objects were gained by the same effort. The poisonous carbonic anhydride was withdrawn from the atmosphere and formed portions of vegetable organisms, while there was fixed a gigantic force which, lying dormant for ages, was at hand when required to supply heat and light, or their co-ordinate force or momentum, to any amount required. That mighty strength exerted by the steam-engines of the present day is the very force, therefore, which was identical with the rays of the early sun, and fixed by the gigantic flora of those ages. Lying dormant for millions of years, it issues from the débris of that ancient vegetation, and, fraught with life and activity, imparts irresistibility to the steam-engine. Like a sleeping giant, it lies supinely in its bed until awakened by the hand of man, when it arouses, and exerts the identical force derived from the fiery sun millions of years ago. It is in the carbon that this immense

force lies stored, at least in some species of coal; while in others hydrogen, along with carbon, is its magazine. Some specimens of this coal present themselves as almost pure carbon, while other specimens contain a large quantity of hydrogen. The former compose anthracite coal, and the latter bituminous. Carbon is, therefore, one of the most abundant of the elements, existing both in the free state and in a great variety of combinations.

In the diamond we have it in the pure state as a crystal In graphite and plumbago we have it nearly pure, and less so in anthracite coal. In the form of carbonic anhydride, combined with calcium and other bodies, we find it in large quantities, while all organized bodies contain it as an essential constituent. In this paper we shall first recognize carbon in its pure crystallized condition as the diamond. This valuable gem is found in alluvial soils, and is produced by the disintegration of ancient rocks. The principal localities where this gem is found are in India, Borneo, Brazil, and the Urals. The diamond crystallizes in forms belonging to the regular system, that is the octohedron. It also may be found in the cube, the rhomboïdal dodecahedron; also the triakis-octohedron, a figure of twenty-four faces, formed by the superposition of a low triangular pyramid on each face of the octohedron. Also the hexakis-octohedron, a fortyeight sided figure formed in like manner by a six-faced acumination of the octohedron. The diamond is the hardest substance known, and has a specific gravity of about 3.50. Although we would suppose that the sharpest angle would be required to cut glass, still such is not the case. It requires that the edges shall be curved, like those of a double convex lens, ere it will cleave the glass suitable for breaking with the line. In this form it enters the glass like a wedge, while the straight edges only scratch the glass. The purest diamonds are colorless and transparent; but there are diamonds of various colors, such as yellow, red, purple, green, brown, and black, etc. The diamond possesses a very high refractive and dispersive power, and hence that peculiar brilliancy for which it is so highly prized. But this lustre is heightened by cutting the gem in facets capable of reflecting and dispersing the light in various directions. As it is the hardest body in nature, the diamond can only be cut and polished with its own dust. It is only then, with patience and toil, that it can be abraded; but after the proper angles of the facets shall have been obtained, and the proper polish has been put upon them, it is by far the most brilliant object in existence. The diamond is a poor conductor of electricity, and like all other forms of carbon, it neither melts nor volatilizes by the heat of our most powerful furnaces. placed between the poles of a very powerful voltaic battery, or under the oxy-hydrogen blow-pipe, it will take fire and burn vividly, the product of the combustion being pure carbonic anhydride. Thus is the sagacious conjecture of Newton verified, that this gem was combustible, which that philosopher predicated from its high refractive properties.

Graphite is another form of carbon. It is known in one form as an amorphous mass, generally known as "black lead," in consequence of its leaving a streak upon paper resembling that made with a piece of lead. Another form is found crystallized, opaque, and very hard. Another form is deposited in the interior of gas retorts. It is very hard, has a metallic lustre, and conducts heat and electricity almost as perfectly as a metal. There is no element which presents more curious properties than carbon. It belongs to the tetrads; that is, it takes the place of four atoms of hydrogen in a compound; for instance in marsh gas, C, H,. allotropic forms which carbon assumes are deeply instructive, and lead us to suppose that other elements may likewise possess its singular properties. Who would suppose that diamond, charcoal, lamp-black, black-lead, and hard graphite, were the same substance? What can be more contrasting than lamp-black and the diamond? Still they are both carbon, the only difference being, that one is crystallized and the other is amorphous. Carbon likewise presents the singular property, chameleon-like, of entirely changing its nature. In one form it has an equivalent of 6. In another that of 33, and nothing can be more dissimilar than the compounds of these two forms of carbon. They certainly differ full as much as those of any other two elements.

But the great importance of carbon is manifest in organized compounds. It exists in them all, and certainly forms their most important constituents. Without carbon the compounds would be neither animal nor vegetable, for this element is the foundation upon which their organism is built. Ere a vegetable could exist upon the earth, carbon had first The carbonic anhydride existing in the to be available. air, was the available carbon. From this, vegetation first derived its carbon, as we have already alluded to. tory of carbon, therefore, is the history of all animal and vegetable organisms, and that of all their products. volves thousands, ay tens of thousands, of complex combinations—the most abstruse study that the human intellect can engage in, and furnishing food for the profoundest study and investigation. He who could remember the vast list of the carbon combinations, must indeed be possessed of an intellect so gigantic, that its creation would be an era in the history of man. No present intellect could do it, for millions of recondite formulæ would necessarily have to be remembered, only a small portion of which are yet known. And every day introduces new ones, for thousands of the most gifted minds of this country are busily engaged in soliciting the forces of nature, in a vast variety of ways, and through every channel which exalted genius can suggest. The vast hidden secrets of nature are being probed into with a perseverance which nothing can subdue—with a sagacity which nothing can baffle. Every postulate is being verified, or stripped of its speciousness, and thrown aside worthless. In the lexicon of the modern chemist, there is no such word Dropping the potential for the positive and actual, he probes into the most hidden crypts of the vegetable cell, and imitating its chemistry, he produces from elemental matter itself, the complex products of vegetation. He produces the vegetable alkaloid, with its high atomic composition. By dexterous manipulation he drives out the single atom in a compound, and inserts in its place a complex molecule.

monad yields to the triad or tetrad, and he builds up compounds whose complexity was deemed an insuperable objection to their formation, only a few years ago. It will be my task to bring before you some of these wonderful carbon compounds. That they will deeply interest you there is not a doubt, for every atomic movement of this protean carbon is fraught with wonder and with wisdom.

NEW YORK, March, 1867.

On Poisons.

BY W. W. HADLEY, M. D.

Prof. of Materia Medica and Therapeutics in the Eclectic Medical College of the City of New York.

The term poison is defined to be, "a substance which, when administered in small quantity is capable of acting deleteriously on the body"—but this definition is not thought to be satisfactory by many, as substances may be harmless when used in small quantities, yet when used in larger amounts, they may prove destructive to animal life, and consequently would prove as poisonous in point of fact as the former when used in small quantities.

Therefore, a more sensible and expressive definition would be, that "a poison is a substance which, when taken internally, is capable of destroying life without acting mechanically on the system." This however, is not a strict definition of the term, for some substances may act as poisons by absorption when applied to the skin, or a wounded surface, as cantharides, corrosive-sublimate, arsenic, etc., while others again, as the poison of the viper, hydrophobia, etc., may have their poisonous effects when introduced by a wound, and not be poisonous when taken into the stomach. In view of the whole subject then, a poison might be defined to be, "a substance which, when taken internally, or applied to the surface of the body, is capable of destroying life, without acting in a purely mechanical manner."

^{*} Read before the Brooklyn Academy of Medicine.

Substances innocent in themselves may, however, destroy life, as iced-water, or cold drinks of any kind, taken under a great degree of excitement, at the same time they are not regarded strictly as poisons. So it seems very difficult to define properly what is meant by the term poison.

In case of criminal poisoning it would not be essential for the law to know whether the substance administered to destroy life were a poison according to the above definitions, or whether it proved fatal from its mechanical effects upon the body; in either case the criminal who administered it, if intentionally, did so for the purpose of destroying life, and would be tried on the charge of murder or manslaughter.

I do not, however, design to pursue the subject in the direction of its legal or criminal bearings, but to speak of it as it has reference to us as members of the Medical Profession. A cardinal principle of our creed is, to cure the sick, and to do it without injury to the tissues, or destroying the capacity of the various healthy functions of the body. We are called upon at times to resort to the use of powerful and active remedies; remedies which if exhibited in undue quantities, or when their use was contra-indicated by some idiosyncrasy, or some peculiarity of the disease, might not only aggravate the symptoms of the patient, but be the means, in some cases, of producing fatal consequences. As for instance, the use of quinine when the stomach is in an irritable, or inflamed condition, and the use of drastic and powerful purgatives in case of enteritis, might so increase the pathological state as to preclude a favorable termination. In these cases, the medicine, though not actually a poison, might still have the effect of a poison, in proving destructive to life. Many of the remedies which are constituents of our Materia Medica, are classed under the head of poisons, if employed in an indiscreet manner, if used in too large doses, or at improper times; and when we speak of a remedy as being indicated in certain diseases, we do not design to be understood that it may be given in those diseases with impunity, in any stage, regardless of the peculiarities which may be manifest, or the quantity which is to be administered.

We have, as I before remarked, among the list of our remedies many agents that are classed among the poisons, medicines that are useful and valuable, and which we could not well dispense with in the practice of our profession. Although these are capable of destroying life if used without discretion, we employ them every day, and some one of them in almost every form of disease. Yet when given by a skill-ful hand they manifest their valuable qualities, and fulfill indications we should fail to reach without their use.

1867.]

And yet, under the definition previously given, they are poisons, they will destroy life. Some physicians contend they do not use poisons, that they use no article that can destroy animal life, while still they resort to the use of Epsom Salts, which has been known to kill, also common salt—the chloride of sodium. We make extensive use of Gelseminum, and find it available in a great variety of diseases. Indeed, we scarcely know how we should be able to find a substitute for it, for its arterial, sedative and relaxant properties, are among the most valuable that can be conceived of in a medicine. Also the Veratrum Viride, which is extensively resorted to in the treatment of inflammatory and febrile affections. These articles are both said to be poisonous in their effects, although there are some who are disposed to question this view of the case, still I am of the opinion that under certain circumstances, their use would be fatal.

Opium, and its various preparations, are articles, about whose destructive effects upon the human system there is no difference of opinion; if administered in an overdose, the result upon life is as certain and effectual as that of the Bohun Upas, or the Wourali poison; and yet it is as extensively used in the treatment of disease as perhaps any other one agent which enters into the list of medicines.

I might speak of other articles of the class, as Hyosciamus, Conium, Digitalis, and Belladonna, but I have referred to enough to elucidate the principle, though these latter articles are often employed as medicines with safety. What I wish particularly to draw attention to is, their effects as poisons. There is no doubt but they will destroy life, and the

question arises, how is this accomplished. They do not produce disorganization of the tissues, that is, they do not create organic lesions, which result in ulceration and decay, and a wasting away of the powers of life by corroding or exhausting discharges. It is not in that mode that they have their influence in terminating existence. But their impression is made upon the brain and nervous system; they create an obtuseness of the nerves to the effect of impressions upon them, and render them incapable of appreciating those impressions which they would do in their normal condition. We resort to them in medicine for these qualities they possess, to quiet exalted nervous conditions. But if they are given in over doses, the effect is carried to far, the functions of the nervous system are suspended, and the functions of life as In an autopsical examination, we find the body with no lesions that could cause dissolution, the parts are all of them perfect, yet they are but the clay of which they were formed, there is no life there. We see the effect these agents have had upon life, we see the destruction that has followed their use, but could we, by any means, have kept up the vitality of the body, while the system was laboring under this depressing influence, till the effects of this noxious agent had passed away, the life principle would again assert its presence, and the person who had trodden so near to the dark waters of death, would be once more restored, free from any permanent injury resulting from an indiscreet use of the drug.

We discern from this view of the case, that these articles may be employed in suitable doses in the treatment of disease; that under peculiar circumstances they are almost indispensable, that when used as they should be they produce no ill effects, and when they have ceased to act they leave no pathological impressions as sequelæ of their exhibition.

There are other agents which are denominated poisons, which have been used as medicines from time almost immemorial, whose characters have been before the public for investigation for approval or condemnation, and whose reputations for benignity in the treatment of disease are not of that unspotted description that should be looked for in agents

employed in those emergencies where human lives are at stake.

If an agent be administered and fulfill the indications we desire and expect, we naturally regard it with extreme favor; if, on the other hand, instead of accomplishing the purpose we had designed to do by its use, it had produced some other effect entirely foreign to our intentions, and so different that it had caused us more trouble than had the original disease which we had used it to remedy; we lose confidence in its vaunted efficacy, or it fails to gain that place in our regard which we give to those of a more reliable character.

The Arsenious Acid, commonly known as Arsenic, is an agent quite extensively employed in the treatment of diseases; said to have been used with great benefit in many cases; has been used in the form of Fowler's solution in cancerous affections and skin diseases, also used in intermittents. Other preparations of the same are used in cancer-plasters to destroy the disease, but they many times destroy the patient; he dies of gastritis, not knowing perhaps that by absorption the drug will be carried to the stomach, and by its specific effects death will ensue as certainly as if it had originally been taken into that organ. Consequently we are obliged to deem it unsafe. The Tartrate of Antimony and Potassa, in other words Tartar Emetic, is very extensively used as a diaphoretic and alterative, also as an emetic and expectorant. It forms one of the ingredients in the Hive syrup which is often given to children, and often kills a great many of them, as well as adults. It is one of those poisonous agents used with too little regard for that caution which every one should show, who has any hand in dispensing medicines for the sick. It produces inflammation and corrosion, and consequently death.

There is another to which I would direct your attention for a moment; that is Mercury, and its various preparations. This has many a stain upon its reputation, so many that I fear it will be many a long day before they will be all blotted out. It is among the articles very generally used by a large class of physicians, and is regarded by them as the

only agent that can be relied upon in the treatment of certain hepatic affections.

It is also used as an alterative, and many say it is the only reliance in syphilis. How often do we see the tissues and bones of the human frame destroyed by its pernicious influence, and how often mercurial sores and ulcerations are presented for our treatment, I need not stop now to inquire; it is probably enough to say that there is no physician who has not seen more or less of them.

And when persons fall into a debilitated and cachectic condition, and droop and die, without any apparent disease manifesting itself; by tracing their history back a few years we too often find that they have been salivated, or that they have passed through some severe disease in which the poisonous preparation has been administered to them ad libitum. If it did not exert its malignant influence upon them sufficiently to produce an immediate fatal effect, it so deranged some of the organs of the body that they could never again be restored to their natural state, and a lingering diseased existence, and anxiously looked for termination of their sufferings in death, has been the sad experience of too many, who have been told that nothing else could do them any good. I need not in detail enumerate the noxious effects of this agent when employed as a medicine; they are too well known to all of you, and are becoming so to the thoughtful and intelligent throughout the land; but an inquiry which would be pertinent just now is; why is the article used as a medicine if it is followed by such pernicious results?

I confess I am at a loss for an answer that would be satisfactory to myself, and I much doubt being able to find one to satisfy others. The only apology I can imagine one could make to his conscience for prescribing it would be, that it has been in use so long, and been sanctioned by the authority of such eminent men; and that he knew of nothing better in certain cases; for I should be sorry to think that human nature could be so depraved, as has been charged, that any physician would administer it for the purpose of

creating more disease, that his own services might the more frequently be in requisition.

I have stated all I intended to regarding these virulent corrosive poisons; those mentioned in the earlier part of this article are dangerous if carelessly used, but excellent and almost indispensable if used with discretion; the last are dangerous under any circumstances. No amount of education or experience can prevent their occasional destructive tendency, or stay their ravages till death ensues. I have only to add that remedies are known and extensively used, which are substitutes for those dangerous agents mentioned above, and which will fulfill all the indications, and more, that are expected from them. As they enter more into use their virtues are better appreciated, and it is not too much to hope and expect that the time is rapidly approaching when innocent remedies shall constitute the armature of the practitioner of the art of healing.

NEW YORK, 546 Broadway.

Pulsatilla. (Anemone Pulsatilla.)

BY A. P. PARSONS, M. D.

This peculiar plant, a native of Europe, has never been thoroughly tested, as a therapeutic agent. In Good's Study of Medicine, Vol. 5, page 147, the only reference made to it is, that an extract was used by Baron Stoerck, which is called Pulsatilla Nigriens, which is probably the Anemone Pulsatilla of Linnæus. The experiments of Baron Stoerck with this agent were such as to induce some others to give it a trial, and with such success as to introduce it into the Edinburgh Pharmacopæia, as a remedy for internal use. Some German practitioners, Schmucker, Bergius, and Richter, used it in very large doses, but became frightened with its powerful action, and used their influence against its employment, and it soon went into disuse. Its use was confined principally to diseases of the eye, both internally and externally. It is only referred to in the U.S. Dispensatory, in the ApPratensis, which latter article was used by Stoerck, who I suppose is the same Stoerck referred to above. Syphilis, diseases of the eye, cutaneous diseases, and whooping-cough are the only diseases mentioned in which it was used. The preparation was given in doses of from two to twenty grains daily, of the extract, whether alcoholic or aqueous we are not informed. The information we glean from our own authors is very limited indeed. King, in his Dispensatory, says very little about it, and does not refer to it at all in his Family Physician, while Paine simply refers to its substitute, anemone nemorosa, and says nothing of the anemone pulsatilla. With the Homeopaths it is a very important remedy.

The use of the true anemone pulsatilla must have been very limited in this country, owing mostly to the fact of scarcity. Several years ago, while in New York, I accidentally, while in a drug-store in Chambers-st., heard the article called for by a German physician, who said it was the only thing he found that would cure sore eyes, on the low lands of the city where he resided, which disease was always preceded by an eruption resembling scald-head. Upon inquiry, the druggist informed me he had sold none of it except to this German. He ordered it from Liverpool a year and a half previous with other drugs. It was labelled Alc. Ext. Anemone Pulsatilla. I purchased it, thinking to use it for scald-head, and partly because he urged it upon me. I used it with lard and simple cerate rubbed together to form an oint-ment.

B Ext. Pulsatillæ, grs. x. Adipis suil., Cerati, aa. 3 ss.

M.

I also dissolved it as follows:

Aquæ, 3j
M.

Just moisten the scalp and apply twice each day for three days, then use the unction three days, and so alternate. I

now give it internally, \(\frac{1}{2} \) gr. three times per day, instead of styllingia, or other alteratives. In sore eyes of intemperate persons it works well in thin, spare patients, but not with those of plethoric habit. I have given it in ½ gr. pills in obstinate cases of vomiting in pregnancy, with good results; if dissolved in the mouth it acts more promptly. In venereal disease, for pain in the bones, priapism, and chordee, it is a prompt remedy, and I doubt not is a valuable alterative in any stage of the disease. Half to one gr. pill at bedtime, for a consumptive, especially for tuberculosis, aids expectoration, quiets cough, and produces anodyne effects. It seems to exert a good influence upon the lungs, and pectoral secretions generally. If a venereal taint is apparent, use it three times per day for not more than three days in succession, as its laxative effects may develop themselves actively and suddenly. If there be an undue excitement of the sexual organs, either male or female, push the remedy until quieted; once controlled, a small quantity will maintain its influence. In nervous diseases it supplies a place in which we often find our usual remedies deficient. Where there is debility and loss of action in the nerve centres, especially if morphia or any preparation of opium has been used, it will rarely fail to give relief. It seems to prevent the loss, or perhaps more properly speaking, to increase the nerve force, assisting the action of restorative medicines. Whooping-cough is somewhat controlled by it. Added to our usual cough syrups instead of opium, it produces good results. The essential tincture, added to simple syrup so as to give one or two drops ess. tinc. to a tea-spoonful, is a very good way to give it. It will relieve globus hystericus much sooner than opium. Give with warm water with sugar and spirits if convenient. When a prompt action is desirable five to fifteen drops ess. tinc. repeated every ten to fifteen minutes, until relaxation is apparent.

Dr. Miller, of Minnesota, has tried many experiments with the Anemone Ludoviciana, which is described in the American Journal of Pharmacy by A. W. Miller, who finds the properties nearly identical with the article we have been considering, and of this we are now using as a substitute for

the other. If it sustains, in all its virtues, the Anemone Pulsatilla, we have a remedy in great abundance and of intrinsic merit, which we must investigate, by applying the testwhich is to give it and watch its action closely. Our ever persevering and practical botanist, Mr. Nuttall, states, there are large quantities near the junction of the Missouri and Platte rivers, and thence west to the Rocky Mountains, and later it has been found in Minnesota. It flourishes on dry sandy bluffs, the same as in Europe, which, with its peculiar characteristic resemblances and similitudes, led to the conclusion that it is destined to act as a perfect substitute. hardly think it possesses the power, for I notice in giving the ess. tinc., which I procured from Cincinnati, a prompt effect is not so apparent, and it is more inclined to produce I once procured some of the Homeopathic tinc. which answered a very good purpose, but that procured since was worthless. Its most prominent effects are nervine, antispasmodic, antiphrodisiac, expectorant, emmenagogue and diuretic. It will sometimes produce griping, (but rarely nausea,) with copious watery stools. Its active principle, the resinoid anemonine, I have not tested much; that article which I used perhaps was not pure, or at all events, did not produce the effects I looked for, in several cases, and I have not obtained any other specimen. My preference is for the essential tincture.

Anniversary of the Brooklyn Academy of Medicine.

The Brooklyn Academy of Medicine—auxiliary to the Eclectic Medical Society of the State of New York—held their tenth anniversary on Wednesday evening, March 6th, at the lecture-room of the Young Men's Christian Association Rooms. The President of the Society, Dr. Henry S. Firth, presided, and called upon Dr. A. H. Robinson popen the proceedings with prayer. After the prayer, D. Firth addressed the audience in an extemporaneous manner congratulating the Society on the recurrence of their and



niversary, and giving in brief the history of eclectic medication.

ADDRESS OF DR. ALLEN.

Dr. Allen read the annual address, his subject covering the entire history of eclecticism, its theory and practice, and also a thorough and learned analysis of the allopathic school, the duties and prospects of eclectics in establishing societies, colleges, and journals. He first alluded to the responsibility and character, morally and professionally, of the family physician, and the necessity of each student cultivating a laudable ambition thereto. He would direct their thoughts to the methods by which their character as professional men could be universally and firmly established. He said: Here assembled in the Brooklyn Academy of Medicine—a brotherhood of physicians who, many of them, twenty years ago, honestly came to the conclusion, from observation, study, and reasoning, that the commonly received system of medicine denominated allopathy was not the best system; that far more efficient remedies for the cure of the sick than those used by that practice had been discovered; that blood-letting was the letting out of life; that the giving of mercury was the giving of a miserable poison; that the exhibition of antimony was a wasteful depression of vital power; that the giving of powerful and irritating purgatives, day after day, in fevers and inflammations, which would kill a well man, would surely kill a sick one; that to opiate a man, or a child, hour after hour, was to hide the real features of the disease, to make him weaker when he came out from that stupefaction, and perhaps to fasten upon the brain some disease induced by the well-known tendency of opium to produce congestion of that organ; that almost this whole system of depletion and stupefaction and poisoning was unscientific in theory, utterly opposed to the hygienic laws of the system, and dreadfully fatal to the sick.

Many of us were educated in this self-same system of allopathy; and we were slow to question its teachings, slow Vol. II.—NO. 11.

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to doubt its practice at the bedside. The centuries past had contributed to make this system. Wise men of many ages, and all their teachings as to inflammation and fevers, and the nature and symptoms of the various diseases, had educated our brains and our hearts too, to have confidence in its doctrines and remedies. We asked ourselves, as we saw the failures of this system in typhoid and other fevers, in rheumatic and other inflammations, in dysentery, in cholera, in scarlatina, and in many other diseases, both acute and chronic, if it could be that such men as Cullen and Hunter and he whom we would call the Webster of British medicine, Thomas Watson, were mistaken? if it could be that Velpeau and Louis, of Paris, who seemed to carry to the ultimate the diagnosis of surgical and medical diseases, were yet unacquainted with the true theory of surgery, and the true practice of medicine? if it could be that Warren, of Boston, and Hosack, of New York, and Wood, of Philadelphia, did not know the best agents for the cure of disease? Our experience at the bedside and the failures we saw made led us to distrust them all as to the remedies they employed; and when we came to study other remedies, and test their power, we arrived at the inevitable conclusion—clear as noonday—that these fathers in medicine had been mistaken, and we had been mistaken, and that we had studied a system which was not a true science; that it was unsound in theory and destructive to life and practice. We proved this, and great was our satisfaction to receive a better practice.

The speaker then alluded in glowing terms to the rapid rise of eclecticism as keeping pace with other reforms and discoveries of the age. He alluded to the present firm hold of eclecticism on the affections of the people—giving facts and statistics, showing its wide-spread power and influence. He thought the want of organization at first among the pioneers was proper and natural, as it developed each man's individuality and powers to the fullest extent, which all schemes in their infancy need; and, finally to prove the truth of their system, this large body of intelligent indepen-

dent practitioners united in their conclusions, and are now forming a compact organization, invulnerable and everlasting, gaining the confidence of the people, and certain to ride over allopathy in a body, if eclectics would be true to themselves; but if not true to themselves their remedies would be gradually appropriated by others, without giving them the credit due. He urged the further completion of the organization and of the system. He advocated a National Eclectic Medical Society and a Pharmacopæia. He called attention to the injustice to the intelligent people of the State from colleges that are endowed by the State refusing their instruction to students of the eclectic persuasion. This he said was contrary to the authority and the spirit of the laws. He said the homeopathic and eclectic families of New York and Brooklyn now pay, and have paid for years, more than one half of the millions that have built up the colleges and hospitals and infirmaries of New York and Brooklyn; and now these professors and State Medical Society of New York turn round and say to us: Your sons cannot graduate from the institutions which you have endowed unless they study with allopathists; we believe in no liberty of views in medicine; we are right, all others are wrong; we care nothing about your convictions of right as to methods of medical practice; we care nothing about your rights as citizens and taxpayers; we have the power in our hands, and will use it to deny to any man a graduation from our halls of medical science, unless you deny your medical faith and make yourself our servant, to be moulded, like papier mache, into any model we propose. Such is the barbarism of allopathy in this cultured city of Brooklyn; such is the Christianity of allopathy in this City of Churches; such is the usurpation of law proposed by Dr. Hutchison, the representative of a college in this city, and officially voted by the State Society. He entered his firm protest against this usurpation.

The Doctor then went into a learned analysis of the comparative effects and merits of the two systems, too lengthy

for our columns. He claimed that they greatly needed an officinal list of strong tinctures for the pocket case of both city and country practitioners, which shall be as strong and as pure as it is possible to obtain; tinctures at least four times the strength of the present officinal tinctures of the U.S. Pharmacopæia. They can be prepared without heat, and preserve the exact properties and aroma of the plant far better than any fluid extract. They are clear and beautiful preparations, but they require choice materials, experienced manipulation, and powerful machinery. But when thus prepared they are beyond all value to every practitioner. When we have a pharmacopæia which shall establish the formulæ for the preparation of these and all other medicinal preparations more perfectly than the U.S. Pharmacopæia, more perfectly than the present Eclectic Dispensatory, we shall have far better remedies; and we shall all understand each other, as to remedies, in our reports of cases. It will be a complete and uniform officinal guide for eclectic druggists throughout the country, in the preparation of their remedies; and great improvements can be introduced in reference to all classes of preparations. Our remedies will be not only more uniform, and be officinal; not only more compact and convenient; not only more efficient and choice, but formulæ should be introduced, whenever possible, by which efficient, pleasant medicines shall be introduced. This is not merely a matter of taste, but of the highest practical importance. We have no right to dose our patients with nauseous mixtures, when, with more study, pleasant remedies and more efficient ones can be used. Our professional success demands this, because unpleasant medicines are not in very many instances taken regularly; not unfrequently they are greatly neglected; and if all here could now give their testimony, we should have their evidence that sometimes they are thrown away! Society has arrived at a refinement and civilization when a large majority of adults will not continue to take from day to day, unpleasant medicines; and when parents will not consent that their little children shall be

drugged with them. Let us recognize this fact. It seems entirely probable to us that homeopathy, in this city and New York, owes three-fourths of its patronage and popularity to pleasant medicines. And, from our own observation of, and experiments with, the materia medica we believe that, by directing special attention to the preparation of compounds, nearly all of them can be made palatable.

He said we must develop our own indigenous materia medica, and introduce whatever was of value from both. homeopathic and allopathic systems. The truth is that eclectics are the progressive, scientific party in medicine, and we think that we are correct in saying that no position in reference to methods of treatment adopted by eclectics within all these thirty years past has been successfully controverted. Our opponents are now violently contending among themselves as to many of their remedies. A large party of medical leaders in England are now denouncing blood-letting; and Dr. Ives, of New Haven, in a recent essay before the State Society of Connecticut, radically opposes the use of calomel, and totally denies its long-supposed specific action upon the liver; and Professor Hodges, of the Massachusetts Medical College, recently stated that "mercury was not so much as to be named as a medicine."

The Doctor concluded with a strong appeal to his brethren to hope and strive; that the future was bright. "In fact," he said, "we have only one slight difficulty, and with the suggestion of that we close. In discussing some time since with an eminent lawyer and statesman of Boston our system, he remarked, 'There is only one difficulty with eclecticism; you are fifty years ahead of your age!' Gentlemen of the Brooklyn Academy of Medicine, I give you this sentiment: May we ever keep 'fifty years ahead.'"

Dr. Robert Newton, Professor of Surgery in the Eclectic Medical College of New York, was then introduced as one of their Major-Generals in the service. His speech was a running fire at what he termed the absurdities and barbarities of allopathy. His remarks were satirical and severe,

and kept the audience in a continued round of laughter. He compared the allopathic diploma which he possessed to the ancient Papal indulgences through which a man could go and sin with impunity. So he, he said, could go around and salivate the jaws out of as many people as he pleased, and nobody could touch him for it. He considered such a license immoral, barbarous, and unworthy the age. He said business men were now waking up to facts, for they are establishing life insurance companies on fifteen per cent. easier terms with policy holders of the eclectic persuasion.

Prof. Newton addressed the audience for nearly an hour and resumed his seat amid applause.

A vote of thanks was given to Prof. Allen and also to Prof. Newton for their instructive and able addresses, and the physicians present then adjourned to their banquet at Dr. D. E. Smith's, in Fort Green Place. The tables were laden with a most bountiful and excellent repast. The members of the Academy and their ladies, with some prominent and influential friends in number about sixty, here spent some three hours in giving every attention to the well-spread tables before them, and to listening to the sentiments and speeches of the occasion. Intelligence, pleasantry and professional zeal gave to the occasion an interest long to be remembered by every one who was present.

Prof. Freeman introduced the social exercise of the occasion by a sentiment in honor of "mine hosts," Dr. Smith and his accomplished lady, and he was followed by many others, among whom were Professors Newton, Hadley and Allen, Doctors Smith, Stowe, Whitney, Firth, Fearn, Irish, Horton, Nirr, Boskowitz, H. L. Stuart, Esq., Frank Tabor, Esq., and several others whose names do not now occur to us.

The eclectic practice is most evidently in much favor and patronage among the intelligent people of Brooklyn; and the occasion most impressively suggested with what favor and enthusiasm our system would be received in every city, if eclectic physicians would everywhere unite their efforts and form themselves into enterprising medical associations.

PERISCOPE.

On the Treatment of Rheumatic Fever. By J. BIRKBECK NEVINS, M.D.

Dr. Nevins, in reference to a growing tendency to consider that it is a matter of indifference whether anything at all is done in rheumatic fever, except to keep the patient quiet in bed, and supply moderate nourishment, submits a plan of treatment which he has long practised, and which it appears to him has led to the following results:—1. Speedy relief of the patient's most urgent symptoms; 2. Diminution of the general duration of the case; and, 3. Restoration of strength, with less tendency to heart-complications or relapses than usual.

The remedies to which he attaches importance are:—

- 1. The vapor-bath, and subsequent cold douche; and,
- 2. The combined use of quinine and iodine.

In a case related, the bath was given in bed, for the patient could neither turn in bed nor move his limbs; "and," states Dr. Nevins, "it will generally be necessary to give it in bed, in the first instance, in any case deserving the name of rheumatic fever; and it is so easily administered, that no difficulty can arise to prevent its employment in every case.

"Two large pieces of coarse flannel (common scouring cloths answer the purpose admirably)," he continues, "are to be soaked in common vinegar; * about a pint being necessary for each cloth. Two common bricks are then to be heated nearly red-hot in the fire, folded up in these flannels, and placed on two plates. The patient being stripped, one plate is to be put a little distance from one knee, and the other a little distance from the opposite shoulder, and the patient is to be covered over with the bed-clothes. In a few minutes he is surrounded by a most refreshing steam-bath, which produces a warm, agreeable perspiration, that may be

^{*} For many years I soaked the flannels in simple water; but the vinegar is so much more fragrant and agreeable to the patient, that I have always used it for the last few years.

kept up for twenty minutes or longer, if the bricks retain their heat sufficiently.

"As soon as it is decided to remove them, the patient, still in bed, is to be very rapidly mopped all over with towels wrung out of cold water, then immediately wiped dry with dry towels, supplied with a warm shirt or flannel garment, and covered with a fresh, dry sheet, &c., or with blankets alone, as may be most agreeable to him.

"The effects of this bath are a speedy relief of the acute pain, and frequently easy sleep for a time; an abatement of the offensive and distressing acid sweats; and a general state of greater comfort.

"The cold water application immediately on the removal of the hot vapor is very important; as it prevents the continuance of an enfeebling perspiration after the hot bath.

"The manner of removing the patient's bed-garment is a point of importance in cases of such painful helplessness as rheumatic fever; and it is accomplished without pain to the patient or difficulty to the nurse by an extremely simple contrivance. The clothes must be torn down the back from top to bottom; and when this is done they can be removed and replaced as easily as a child's pinafore, without even lifting a limb of the patient or disturbing him in bed. By this means, fresh, clean, dry clothing can be applied without difficulty once or twice a day, according to the amount of sweating; and the sufferer is relieved from the discomfort of his damp, offensive garments.

"This bath may be repeated twice a week; and during seventeen years that I have been in the habit of adopting it, I have scarcely ever had to use it a third time in bed; the patient, after the second bath, being almost invariably able to sit up and have the third in a chair.

"When he is able to sit up, a steam-bath can be given with great ease by putting a bucket of boiling water under a chair, the seat of which is sufficiently protected to prevent the patient from being scalded whilst he is sitting upon it surrounded by blankets; and, by putting a red-hot brick into the water in the course of ten minutes, the steam is kept up,

as by this time it generally begins to abate from the original boiling water.

"A jug of cold water may be poured over the patient when the blankets are removed, or he may be wiped by cold wet towels, as is most agreeable to his own fears or feelings, and he must then be clothed and sit up for a few hours.

"The second part of the treatment upon which stress is laid, is the combination of moderate, i.e., two-grain doses of quinine with five-grain doses of iodide of potassium from the first. The theoretical grounds on which quinine was first proposed have been already mentioned; and the general experience of the profession will suggest the explanation of the probable benefit to be looked for from the addition of the iodine."—British Medical Journal.

On the Nature of the Poison of Contagious Diseases. By Dr. Lionel S. Beale, F.R.S.

In his report to the Royal Commission on the Cattle Plague, published in detail in the third report of the Commissioners, Dr. Beale has,

- (1.) Advanced facts and arguments which seem to him opposed to the view that the contagious matter consists either of insects, of animalcules, or any kind of vegetable organism.
- (2.) He thinks that it consists of living matter formed in the organism of man or animals—the particles being exceedingly minute, and capable of retaining their vitality for a long time, and under various conditions, although separated from the body.
- (3.) That these living particles bear somewhat the same relation to the germinal matter of normal cells that pus-corpuscles or cancer-cells do, and therefore that the contagious germs have been derived by continuous descent from the normal germinal matter of the organism. They may have descended from a lymph or white blood-corpuscle, or from the germinal matter of an epithelial cell.
- (4.) If this be so, the living contagious particle is not, Dr. Beale holds, of the nature of a parasite, nor can it be regarded

zoölogically as a species, nor has it originated in the external world and grafted itself upon man, but it has originated in his organism, and is, indeed, degraded living matter descended from what was once normal living matter of the body itself.—Medical Times and Gazette.

On the Relation between Cholera and the Diarrhæa which accompanies it, and the Treatment of the latter Disease. By SIR HENRY COOPER, M.D.

From a review of these important questions, Sir Henry Cooper concludes that—

- "1. In epidemics of cholera an unusual amount of diarrhœa prevails; it precedes cholera, and extends latterly beyond it.
- "2. In the ordinary course of an attack of cholera, diarrhoa is the first symptom, and is undoubtedly the first stage of the disease.
- "3. This premonitory diarrhœa is not distinguishable by its history or symptoms from the sporadic or ordinary diarrhœa.
- "4. Cases in which diarrhoea has been stayed do not pass into cholera, while those in which it has been neglected may and often do.
- "5. The astringent mode of treatment is generally as efficacious in arresting diarrhœa during cholera visitations as at ordinary times.
- "6. And, as a corollary from the above, it is the duty of those in authority in cholera epidemic seasons to search out and arrest all cases of diarrhea, by the organization of a sanitary police for the detection of the disease, and its treatment in its earliest stages."—British Medical Journal.

On the Treatment of Chronic Dysentery. By Mr. HARRY LEACH, Resident Medical Officer of the "Dreadnought" Hospital Ship.

Mr. Leach states that no disease in the practice of the "Dreadnought" hospital ship has been treated with so great a variety of drugs as chronic dysentery. The number of

remedies is a measure of the obstinacy of the malady, and the ineffectiveness of the treatment usually adopted in this malady. Depressing, however, as is this result, the physician is not altogether helpless, and at times he sees his efforts crowned with success. The course of treatment recommended by Mr. Leach, from his large experience, is strictly based upon the pathology of the disease. He says:—

"The pathology of chronic dysentery is, in influencing treatment, chiefly confined to the simple fact that ulcers in variable numbers, and equally variable stages, exist along the course of the large intestine. They may be large, few in number, and may exist only near the caput coli. They may be many in number and small; and if this be the case, they are generally scattered pretty equally over the whole course of the large intestine. They may penetrate only the mucous coat of the bowel, or may burrow so deeply through the middle and into the external coat as to produce an hourly risk of perforation, and consequent peritonitis. But be the number and state of the ulcers what they may, putting minute and impractical considerations aside, it is clear that our enendeavors must be mainly, if not wholly, directed to the giving to these ulcers a favorable opportunity of healing and cicatrization. . Having regard to the very large number of cases admitted into this hospital, and being sure, from personal observation, that drugs have had a fair and impartial trial, I am compelled to arrive at the conclusion that in cases of chronic dysentery (if the disease be of more than three months' standing) very little specific good can be done by any of the so-called remedies commonly used. The only drug that can be said to have produced a definite amount of relief in any number of cases is the compound powder of ipecacuanha, and I am by no means prepared to give a very decided opinion about its efficiency. A dose of castor-oil and laudanum, given occasionally, often assists the evacuations, and affords relief from tenesmus. Beyond these, the extent of my belief in drugs no further goes. And hence it may be said, and reasonably maintained, that, as chronic dysentery may recede from the path of recovery by meddling

and muddling medicine, so we may medically enjoin and employ rest in these cases as confidently and as happily as does Mr. Hilton in 'Accidents and Surgical Disease.' rest should mean not only absolute quiet for the body, but The influence of this single condition is for the bowel also. marvellously shown in many cases admitted to the 'Dreadnought,' the progress of which cannot but lead us to refrain from meddling with the accomplishment of a process that simple quietude has evidently caused to begin. In analyzing a list of fatal cases, it is found that half die from exhaustion, no other lesion except extensive ulceration along the colon being discoverable. The other moiety of cases is hastened to an end by complications of bronchitis or cirrhosis, hepatic abscess, or peritonitis. As therefore our efforts should be directed to the sustentation of the system until nature has accomplished the healing process, it is particularly necessary that care should be used in the choice and administration of Milk, beef-tea, and eggs, in small and oft-repeated diet. portions, should form the staple of the patient's food for some weeks after admission, varied occasionally by rice, arrowroot, or any other good invalid cereal. Strict quietude in the horizontal position cannot be too strongly insisted upon. much pain exist, it may be relieved (and that without the use of opium) by light and warm applications to the abdo-The use of stimulants is, I believe, still an open question among most practitioners; but experiences gained at this hospital lead to the conclusion that they should, as a rule, be entirely avoided. An extra allowance of good beef-tea will do far more to sustain the patient than wine or brandy, howsoever given, and I am sure that in many cases the latter A placebo must, of course, be preare positively injurious. scribed, for as there are few, if any, cases so tedious, so none require more encouragement by all the arts that influence the mind in the conservation of the body. A month, or two, or three, may elapse, with little, if any, signs of change for the better. In many cases a fatal result disappoints our best expectations; but they who, having lingered the longest, at length end well, are those with whom therapeutics have

little or nothing to do. The most favorable results can, of course, yield only a condition of comparative health, which any imprudence as to change of clothing or diet will speedily disturb and destroy. But when men, after months of probationary slop-food, reach successfully to the stage of beef and mutton diet, we discharge them as convalescents, with a good hope to them of a renewal of the lease of life. Good and gentle nursing is of paramount importance, for the vital powers are so feeble, that any risk of bed-sores must be most scrupulously avoided, and would almost invariably precede a fatal result.

"The tendency of the foregoing remarks may be condemned as too totally abandoning all therapeutic aids, but they will effect the purpose of the writer, if only they assist to propagate a plan of treatment that will allow cases of chronic dysentery to be cleverly nursed and fed, rather than actively stimulated and physicked."—The Medical Press and Circular.

Sequelæ of Surgical Operations.

M. Maisonneuve thinks that of every hundred patients who die after surgical operations at least ninety-five are poisoned. This he explains by showing that in most cases of the kind referred to, certain morbid products, the result of the operation, are developed either in the blood or on the surface of the body, and make their way into the system. He formulates his remarks thus: (1) The blood and other animal fluids, when exposed freely to the air, or in contact with aqueous substances, soon lose their vitality. (2) Once dead, they are liable to putrefy under the influence of heat, moisture, and air. (3) The products of such putrefaction are highly poisonous. (4) It is the same with such secretions as the urine, bile, and intestinal juices. (5) In infiltrating the permeable tissues with which they are in contact, these poisoned liquids give rise to gangrene, erysipelas, &c. (6) These same liquids, either by themselves or mixed with the special products of inflammation they provoke, can, in entering the circulation, alter the blood and disturb important functions. (7) After their expulsion from the general blood-vessels they may remain in the capillaries, the parenchymata, serous tissue, &c., and give rise to abscess, anthrax, &c. (8) The entirety of the disturbances constitutes surgical fevers. To prevent these terrible consequences of operation, M. Maisonneuve suggests the adoption of the subcutaneous method, and the employment of all means of preventing putrefactive processes.—Lancet, March 2, 1867.

The Urine in Acute Rheumatism.

In a paper on the Urine in Acute Rheumatism, Dr. Thomas Steavenson arrives at the following conclusions:

- 1. In acute rheumatism, when the excretion of solid materials in the urine is large, the patient makes, other things being equal, a rapid recovery; on the other hand, in lingering cases, the excretion of solids is usually small.
- 2. As in this disease the urine is invariably scanty in bulk but (generally from this cause only) of high density, a useful guide to the progress of the case may probably be found by diluting the urine to the normal bulk, and then ascertaining its specific gravity. According as it is now of high or of low density will the progress of the disease probably be favorable or unfavorable.
- 3. Though the excretion of urea is usually greater during the height of the disease than during convalescence, this is not invariably the case; the reverse sometimes occurs. Though the excretion of urea is greater during the disease than during the early stage of recovery, the urea in the former stage seldom very much exceeds in amount the normal physiological excretion.
- 4. The uric acid is always much increased whilst the disease continues.
- 5. The phosphoric acid is generally in greater amount during the progress of the disease than during recovery, but the quantity of this substance rarely much exceeds the quantity secreted in health.
- 6. The excretion of sulphuric acid is generally increased, and often largely. In one instance more was excreted dur-

ing recovery than during the acute stage of the disease. The amount of this substance excreted is very variable.—Half-yearly Abstract of Med. Sci.

On the Treatment of Scabies by Oil of Petroleum. By Dr. DECAISNE.

From a report published in the Archives Médicales Belges, we learn that Dr. Decaisne has used the oil of petroleum successfully in upwards of six hundred cases of scabies. In the great majority of the subjects the disease was completely cured after a single friction, in several after two, and in a very few instances were three or four inunctions required. The method failed in two or three cases only, and sulphuret of lime was necessary to effect a cure.

It has been objected that oil of petroleum is an irritant and produces rashes, but M. Decaisne remarks that the remedy applied with proper precautions seldom causes this unpleasant result.

"At first the frictions were performed with rough towels and brushes, and, probably in order to lacerate the sulci, the oil was rubbed violently into every part of the skin more particularly affected. The inevitable result was the exposure of the derma, and rashes consequent on the mechanical irritation. Military surgeons have, however, found from experience that this is unnecessary, and now the inunctions are more gently performed. But even this plan was open to improvement. It may be a matter of indifference when the skin is healthy to use a brush, a rough sponge, or a hard towel, but in the case of scabies the vesicles are often broken, and the cuticle destroyed, and the softest aquarelle brushes should be used to spread the oil on the integument.

"Since brushes of this description have been used in barracks, the secondary eruptions have all but ceased, and when any have appeared they were the result of an error of diagnosis which cannot always be easily avoided in case of some standing. Prurigo, eczema, impetigo, are often mistaken for scabies, and in these affections the evil effects of repeated and inopportune frictions are readily accounted for."

M. Decaisne also adverts in his report to the disinfection

of the clothing. Experiments instituted in the military hospital and garrison at Antwerp have shown the utter inutility of the measures in habitual use. Since they have been discontinued, relapses have become less frequent, and the inutility of disinfection is, therefore, now fully demonstrated, and this expensive procedure, founded on routine and not on scientific experience, should henceforth be abandoned. If it be even conceded for the sake of argument that the acarus can continue to live elsewhere than in its natural habitat, the operation would still be unnecessary, because in resuming his wearing apparel the patient exposes to the action of the petroleum with which his person is saturated, the few sarcoptes which may remain in his clothes.

The treatment with petroleum oil thus combines with its great efficacy the additional advantage of economy, because the process of disinfection is dispensed with, and the entire cost of the medication does not exceed for each case three or four centimes.—Journal of Practical Medicine and Surgery, January, 1866.

Insufflation of Medicated Powders into the Urethra. By M. MALLEZ.

M. Mallez has devised for this purpose an apparatus which consists—1st, of an india-rubber ball supplied with a metallic mouth piece; 2d, of a slender catheter adjusted to a small brass cup, which can be adapted to the armature of the ball; 3d, of a catheter of larger size, open at both ends. This sound is in the first place introduced beyond the membranous portion of the urethra; the narrow tube is then passed down into its cavity, bearing in its cup the medicated powder; and pressure of the india-rubber ball now affixed to the cup propels the powder into the urethra, where it is deposited over the entire surface of the mucous membrane during the slow withdrawal of the apparatus. Experiments on the dead subject show that the operation perfectly answers the inventor's purpose.

In twelve cases of chronic gonorrhœa a cure was effected in this manner; and in five, the disease had lasted from two to four years. M. Mallez has hitherto used bismuth powder. He is now engaged in experiments with other substances, such as the phosphate of magnesia. The instrument might be used for the introduction of medicated powders into the cervix uteri, and in almost every variety of sinus.—Journal of Practical Medicine and Surgery.

On the Use of Sulphites of Lime and Soda as Remedial Agents. By Dr. A. Fisher.

In a report on this subject presented to the American Medical Association, Dr. Fisher arrives at the following conclusions:—

- "1. That the sulphites of soda and lime can be given to patients suffering from zymotic diseases, in large quantities, and continued for a long time, without producing deleterious effects.
- "2. That, in accordance with Dr. Polli's experiments, the sulphurous acid is disengaged from the alkaline base in the system, permeating it in every part, thereby preventing fermentation or decomposition of the blood.
- "3. That they do not destroy or decompose the poison in the system, but prevent its deleterious action on the blood, and consequently the tissues, until it is eliminated from the system.
- "4. That the quantity prescribed should be in proportion to the malignancy of the disease; that is, the more hopeless and malignant the case, the greater should be the quantity administered in a certain time.
- "5. That these remedies should not be too suddenly withheld in bad cases, but continued until the poison is carried out of the system by the emunctories.
- "6. That the effect of these remedies, in well-marked cases of blood-poisoning, is imperceptible for the first few hours, but by continuing them for a day or two, the secretions become improved, and the patient is relieved of the morbid symptoms.
 - "7. That these remedies will not cure inflammation of an Vol. II.—No. 11.

organ already established, though in cases where they are indicated, they prevent the deleterious effect of the poison until the inflammation subsides, or is relieved by appropriate remedies.

- "8. That the use of these agents will not prevent the use of other remedies indicated in the particular case, unless chemically incompatible.
- "9. That these remedies are generally well retained on the stomach, though the dose is large, and the sulphurous taste is disagreeable to some patients.
- "10. That the more malignant and hopeless the case, the more perceptible and satisfactory will be the effects of these agents, unless the case is beyond the reach of remedies."—American Journal of the Medical Sciences.

Syrup of the Phosphates of Iron, Quinia and Strychnia.

Dr. Lyons has for some time past employed with, he conceives, very important therapeutic results, this powerful tonic combination, for which the profession is mainly indebted to the late Dr. Eaton, of Glasgow, and Professor Aitken, of the Royal Victoria Hospital, Netley.

The concentrated syrup of the phosphates, when made by double decomposition, according to Professor Aitken's formula, contains per drachm two grains of the phosphate of iron, one grain of the phosphate of quinia, and one thirtysecond of a grain of the phosphate of strychnia. fectly clear and limpid fluid, slightly refracting light with the peculiar tint of the quinia solutions, and, viewed in mass obliquely, showing the bluish tint of the phosphate of iron held in solution. It is perfectly miscible with distilled water, has a strong styptic and distinctly chalybeate taste, and an aftertaste of quinia. It may be exhibited in doses of twenty to forty, and even sixty, minims, diluted with water, according to age and the circumstances of the case. It is well borne in the majority of cases; it acts as an invigorating stomachic and sensibly improves appetite; it is an admirable general tonic; it appears to be a readily assimilable chalyb-

eate, and is thus well adapted for certain chlorotic and anæmic states. In the morbid states of the nervous system which precede and accompany the development of the strumous diathesis, the influence of the strychnia salt appears to be exercised with great potency as a nervine tonic and stimulant, and it would seem to be an important agent in altering the morbid state of the nervous apparatus which presides ever the function of nutrient assimilation. Physiologically, this influence may be supposed to be attributable to the wellknown action of the strychnia salts on the spinal cord, as well as by direct stimulus to the filaments of the great sympathetic plexuses distributed to the stomach and intestines. From the general tonic and invigorating effect of this drug, its influence on the stomach and the promotion of appetite, as well as by the improved assimilation of food which it induces, it is a very valuable medicine in cases of strumous children, threatened with scrofulous degeneration and ultimately with localized tubercular development. As a preparative to the use of cod-liver oil, and in certain cases as a concomitant to this food substitute, the syrup of the three phosphates will be found a very important adjunct in the treatment of numerous forms of strumous disease.

But the employment of this admirable combination is not limited to the cases just mentioned. In depressed states of the system in the adult and the aged, in several of the conditions tending to adipose degeneration of important organs, such as the heart and kidneys, the syrup of the phosphates will be found a serviceable and reliable remedy. Where it is desired to combine a tonic and styptic to aid in checking the drain of albumen from the system in chronic disease of the kidneys, this combination will be found of great use.

In many forms of cutaneous diseases where a tonic effect is desired, this combination will be employed with benefit.

For the use of strychnia in chorea and certain other of the maladies of children, the high authority of Trousseau and Pidoux may be cited. These distinguished authors give the following formula for the preparation of a syrup of strychnia. Five centigrammes of the sulphate of strychnia are dissolved in one hundred grammes of simple syrup. One hundred grammes contain about twenty-five cuilerées à café or teaspoonfuls; each teaspoonful or drachm contains two milligrammes or one twenty-fifth of a grain of the sulphate of strychnia. Dr. Lyons is of opinion that a superior efficacy will be found to attach to the triple combination above described. His best thanks are tendered to the Army Medical authorities in this city, by whose kindness Sergeant Moss of the Army Medical Stores, himself an experienced practical chemist, and who had learned the process under Dr. Aitken's supervision, has been allowed to prepare for him a specimen of the syrup of the phosphates of iron, quinia, and strychnia in exact accordance with Professor Aitken's directions.—Medical Press and Circular.

Elimination in Cholera.

Prof. Lionel Beale discusses ably in two articles in the Medical Times and Gazette (September 29 and Oct. 6, 1866) the doctrine of elimination in cholera and briefly states the principal conclusions at which he has arrived as follows:—

- 1. That the gland-cell is not, as a general rule, destroyed when it secretes.
- 2. That the poisons "eliminated" by the skin and kidneys are probably in a state of solution.
- 3. That the poisons of contagious diseases are not soluble, but consist of living germs which move of themselves, but which cannot be "eliminated" from the blood by epithelial or other cells.
- 4. That so far from there being any evidence of the epithelial cells eliminating contagious poisons, the living particles of the latter interfere with the action of the cells, and many cells are destroyed by them.
- 5. That the function of the columnar epithelial cells is to draw substances from the intestine and pass them on towards the blood, and that therefore it is most improbable that these cells should take part in "eliminating" anything whatever from the blood.

[If these conclusions be just—and we believe them to be so—they are fatal to Professor Johnson's theory of cholera.]

Results of the Operation of Complete Excision of the Astragalus, performed by British Surgeons.

- Mr. H. Hancock, Prof. of Surgery in the Royal College of Surgeons, in a recent course of lectures gave the following statistics:—
- "I have collected 57 cases. Of these, 33 were for compound dislocation; of which 5 were complicated with fracture, 12 were for simple dislocation, and 3 were for caries.
- "Of the 33 performed for compound dislocation, 24 recovered with good, useful limbs; 1 underwent secondary amputation of the leg, and recovered; 8 died, of whom 1 had undergone secondary amputation.
- "Of the 12 performed for simple dislocation, 9 recovered with good and useful limbs; of these 12, in 4, of whom 1 died, the bone was allowed to remain for a month; in 1 it was allowed to remain nineteen weeks; in 4, of whom 2 died, the bone was removed immediately.
- "Of the 3 performed for disease, 2 recovered, with good and useful limbs; 1 recovered for a time, but the disease returned in two years, necessitating amputation of the leg, the patient, however doing well.
- "In 3 the cause is not given. Of these, 1 died, and 2 terminated well.
- "If to these we add 52 cases performed by surgeons abroad, we get 109 in the whole.
- "Of these, 64 were for compound dislocations, of which 5 were complicated with fracture; 4 were for compound fracture; 20 for simple dislocation; 10 for disease (caries); 1 was for necrosis; of 10 the causes are not stated.
- "Of the 64 excisions performed for compound dislocation, 50 recovered with good and useful limbs; 1 underwent secondary amputation of the leg, and recovered; 11 died, of whom 1 had undergone secondary amputation; of 2 the results are not given.

"Of the four operated upon for compound fracture, 3 recovered with good and useful limbs; 1 died.

"Of the 20 operated upon for simple dislocation, in 4, of whom 1 died, the bone was allowed to remain for a month; in 1 the bone remained for nineteen weeks; in 7, of whom 2 died, the bone was removed immediately; in 2 the bone was removed for secondary caries, but at what period it is not stated. In the remaining 6 the period of removal is not given.

"Of these 20, 14 recovered with good and useful limbs; 3 died; in 3 the results are doubtful.

"Of the 10 cases performed for disease (caries), 6 recovered with good and useful limbs; 1 submitted to secondary amputation two years afterwards, and recovered; 1 died; in 2 the results are doubtful.

"The patient operated on for necrosis did well.

"Of the 10 cases the causes of which are unknown, 2 recovered with good and useful limbs; 1 died; in 7 the results are not known.

"So that of the 109 cases, 76 recovered with good and useful limbs; 2 submitted to secondary amputation, 1 recovered; 16 died, including 1 in which secondary amputation had been performed; in 14 the results are not known.—Lancet.

On the Use of Sulphite of Soda in the Treatment of Erysipelas.

Dr. Adding Hewson stated that he had been using the solution of sulphite of soda as a local application in erysipelas since February, 1864, and had obtained results from it, in the various forms of that disease, which were to him both interesting and surprising. He had been induced to try it from the representation made by Prof. Polli of its influence in destroying all diseases of a cryptogamic or animalcular origin—a source to which recent researches would lead us to suppose erysipelas was due. At first he administered it internally, in doses of ten grains every two hours, as well as applied it locally; but the effects of the local use were so

prompt and decided that he has now abandoned its internal administration altogether. In extensive trials of this remedy, both in hospital and private practice, he has never seen it fail when thoroughly applied before the deep planes of cellular tissue had been invaded by the disease. Under the latter circumstance, no positive curative results were of course to be expected from its mere external use. But before such parts had become affected, a solution of ten grains of this salt to the ounce of water, when thoroughly applied on lint all over the surface affected, and to a considerable distance beyond it, and covered with oiled silk to prevent the evaporation of the solution, had not only produced a decided bleaching effect on the discolored surface in every such instance in the first twenty-four hours of its use, but had invariably destroyed all traces of the disease in forty-eight hours from its first application. The result was the same, whether the application was made in the traumatic or idiopathic form of the disease. He had thus cured twenty-seven cases, seven of which were of idiopathic erysipelas. Even in the cases where the deep planes of cellular tissue were involved as well as the surface, the disease on the surface was always apparently affected by the application. It was most positively bleached in all instances, and in many was evidently destroyed, within the period above stated, even whilst that in the deeper parts proceeded on steadily to suppuration.— Trans. Coll. of Phys. of Philadelphia.

Cereus Grandiflora in Affections of the Heart.

DR. A. F. Potter, of Boston, recommends, in the Med. and Surg. Journal of that city, the cereus grandiflora, or night-blooming cereus, in affections of the heart. It is a sedative to the nervous and circulatory systems, and acts on the kidneys; given in the regular medicinal doses repeated at proper intervals, it is found to diminish the frequency of the pulse and increase the secretion from the urinary organs largely; it is hence of great service in dropsical diseases. In

large doses it is irritant to the stomach, and has a peculiar effect upon the brain, producing mental confusion, hallucination, and slight delirium. In cases of an inflammatory nature, with acute symptoms, it is contra-indicated. It is indicated in chronic cases accompanied with anasarca, and in the condition of the heart which is generally associated with anæmia, and in which the tissue of the organ is enfeebled by defective nutrition, in combination with iron, mineral acids, and other tonics. An important incidental advantage in these cases is, frequently, its effect in removing the dropsical effusion, whether in the pericardium, the other serous cavities, or the general areolar tissue. Dr. Potter has found it to act very favorably in palpitation, either from plethora, anæmia, or merely nervous disorder; but the remedy is applicable only to the cases in which the affection has a certain degree of permanency, and not at all to those occasional and fugitive attacks which occur under passing excitements.

The saturated tincture is preferred. Take of the fresh stem and flowers of the cactus four ounces, ninety-five per cent. alcohol, one pint, macerate for one month, and filter. Dose—from one to five drops three times a day, gradually increasing, if necessary, until unequivocal symptoms of its operation are manifested.

Dr. P. expresses his belief, that if the profession will test the virtues of the cactus, few would be willing to dispense with its use.

Chlorate of Potash in Phagedona. By Dr. E. TILLOT.

Chlorate of potash has been employed for some years as an external application in ulcers, cancerous affections, and scorbutic gingivitis. It has been successfully used in the troublesome ulcerations following some blisters. It is daily used in the Hôpital des Enfans, in Paris, in the dressings of wounds covered with diphtheria. The chlorate may be used externally, either in solution, or as an ointment; in solution, in the proportion of ten to twelve grammes (a gramme is about fifteen grains) to six hundred grammes of water; as

an ointment, two grammes to thirty of lard; and it may be mixed with glycerine. The mode of application differs according to the disease, and it may be by injection, lotion, or friction, once or twice a day. Dr. Tillot says that the chlorate has hitherto been very little employed in phagedæna, and as he has found it to produce a remarkable effect in this disease he thinks it interesting to communicate his experience of He relates six cases of phagedænic syphilitic disits effects. ease, in most of which the chlorate was successfully employed; and he remarks that all the patients were free from constitutional cachexia, and were for the most part vigorous per-In all of them the chancres were multiple, and belonged to the variety of soft chancre. The effects of the treatment were all manifested at the beginning of the medication; and although the contact of the chlorate was painful to bear, it was never so great as to compel its discontinuance. Its first effect, Dr. Tillot states, is to relieve the pains, when there are any; to diminish the intensity of the suppuration, and to modify its nature by changing the appearance of the morbid surface; but where it excels all other remedies is in its power of arresting the disease, in its spreading character. The action of the salt in phagedæna is not rapid, but it is constant.—British and Foreign Medico-Chirurgical Review, Oct. 1866, from Bulletin Général de Thérapeutique, March 30, 1866.

EDITORIAL.

Medical Education of Women.

It is a striking peculiarity of the present period, that woman is standing out boldly into the foreground, and asserting her own individuality. She asserts her right to have a voice in the politics of the nation, as she has interests to protect and aims to accomplish. She seeks to burst and throw aside the conventionalities and prejudices that have hedged her round about, and forced her to support existence limited to a certain narrow and circumscribed sphere. Wom-

en have distinguished themselves in many paths of usefulness, and in some occupations in which it was once thought none but the hardy and undaunted spirit of man could engage. Many of them are this day efficient practitioners of medicine, and some are teachers of medical science. Why should any one deny their capability and fitness, when that is proven to a demonstration? Why deny them the ability to correctly diagnose disease, when it has always been conceded that, outside of medicine, their quickness and keenness of perception are readily admitted to be more marked than even that of men; when their patients do well, whether the disease be correctly diagnosed or not; and when, in diseases peculiar to their sex, it would seem plausible that they should be able to become much more proficient than man ever could? Can any one answer how many female patients are visited by a physician in the proportion of one male? The number is relatively very large. Then why, except from selfish motives, seek to retain all that lucrative practice in our hands, that might and would naturally fall to the treatment of those of their own sex? Let the way for their thorough education in medical science be once opened, and there will be plenty eager and anxious to attempt any hardships necessary to be undergone, to make them thorough physicians. Let them hear the same lectures delivered to male students, either at the same time in the same building, certain lectures being delivered to each separately, or at another time in an institution of their own, and who will say that they will not be just as proficient, and as worthy to receive their diplomas at the last? If such be done, and they be graduated thus, they will be worthy of all confidence, and we will not hesitate to consult with them as freely on medical matters as with a professional brother. Now we know that all physicians are not equally capable, or intelligent, nor do all wish to be physicians, because some can; so I apprehend it would be with women. Only a few would have the desire, or feel that they would be able to be good physicians, and of these there would be different grades of intelligence. The occupation of physician would be to them an outlet into which those pent-up souls could find more expansion, and greater spheres for usefulness, and for the indulgence of that tender womanly sympathy belonging only to them, than in the drudging occupations of the needle, which were at one time about their only legitimate occupation. The State Medical Society, Allopathic, of Pennsylvania, has discussed the subject of counselling with well-qualified female practitioners, and in a report of the com-

mittee, appointed on the subject, by Dr. D. Francis Condié, the chairman, while acknowledging "the capability of the female mind to accomplish anything intellectually, that can be acquired by the male, at the same time it was strenuously opposed to encouraging females to devote themselves to this sphere of usefulness, unless only so far as to properly fit them for intelligent nursing of sick, with which the proper mission of woman in this direction was attained." It also suggested that since there were some "who would undertake the study and practice of medicine, and their services would be solicited by a large number of invalids, our duty to the community at large demanded that the profession should see that such females should have access to proper instruction." (Medical Record, April 1st, p. 61.) The report concluded with a resolution adverse to the repeal of the resolution of 1860 which prevents consultation with female prac-This is on a par with the old Allopathic intolerant spirit, that prevents their counselling with any physician, outside of their own ranks, be he ever so highly educated, or eminent in his profes-On one page of their journals they deplore the excess of ignorance and incapacity among their practitioners, and on another they wrap themselves in their ignorance and declare that there is nothing good beyond them, refusing the people the benefit that would result from the enlightenment of such ignorance from contact with those who could teach them something new.

American Improved Gas Light.

This valuable invention comes before the public at a time when the demand, "Give us more light!" is universal and imperative—when gas-bills have largely increased in amount, while the illumination from burners has been very sensibly diminished.

This discrepancy seems to have been everywhere observed, as well as the fact that the price of coal for making gas is very much less than it was a year ago. Interrogation crowds upon interrogation. "Why can such things be?" until the voices of a whole people unite in a common interrogatory execration of all connected with the business of supplying, through close corporations, the public with coal-gas in large quantities with little light. The rule is to make from ten to twelve thousand feet of what is called gas, from each ton of coal, which is sold in this city at from \$25 to \$35, and in many

other places for a much larger sum, while the coke and other residual products about pay for the manufacture, and the interest on the necessary machinery for production.

To this must be added the government tax, which is paid by the consumer, rent of meters, deposit for meters, loss to consumer from unequal pressure and greatly varying illuminating power, which seldom reaches 12 candles at the burner. To the foregoing must be added the very limited and imperfect means of supply and distribution, from too small mains, and from the not generally known fact that all of the gas-pipes, including mains, service, and distribution, are gradually and constantly filling up with tarry impurities which will, in a comparatively short period, render necessary an expense of millions for renewal; a necessity which cannot be avoided, if the ordinary coal-gas continues to be used in its present imperfect state. These difficulties are so serious at the present moment in all the lower part of this city that it is almost impossible to obtain the necessary illuminating power, during the business hours of the evening, at any cost, with any ordinary size of And the question "How can we obtain the necessary increase of light at a reasonable cost?" is being asked in every establishment where gas is used to any extent. Our answer to this question is, we have adopted the American Improved Gas Light, which enables us to use three-foot burners in the place of six-foot with an ample supply of light. We do this at a cost of not more than \$1 per 1,000 feet for the increased illumination; and have used this light for months with entire satisfaction and success.

REVIEWS AND BIBLIOGRAPHICAL NOTICES.

An Eclectic Treatise on the Diseases of Children, By Robert S. Newton, M. D., Prof. of Surgery in the Eclectic Medical College of the City of New York, &c., and W. Byrd Powell, M. D., formerly Prof. of Chemistry in the Medical College of Louisiana; Emeritus Prof. of Cerebral Physiology in the Eclectic Medical Institute of Cincinnati, &c.

There is no treatise on the subject of the work before us, that we have seen, that presents to us so many facts that are really unique and novel, and that are at the same time of such startling importance, as the present admirable treatise. The truths enunciated by Prof. Powell, concerning the incompatibility of some temperaments for the marriage relation, and the lamentable effect produced upon the children of such

incompatible marriages, call for our serious attention. This is the more important to us, since the doctrine of the human temperaments is but little understood, and the laws with reference to the marriage relation are so often violated, producing wide-spread effects over the land; and as physicians we are expected to render safe against death those very children, who are really non-viable by the fault of their parents. The work is divided into three Books, the first of which treats of "physiological considerations in relation to parents, and the treatment of children." Book 2d gives the "natural history, pathology, and treatment of the various forms of disease incidental to infancy and childhood." Book 3d treats "of the functions and pathological relations of the cerebellum, and of the human temperaments, for the elucidation of disease."

Book 1st, chapter 1st, discusses the subject of "Parental conditions considered with reference to children." Section 1st on marriage eligibility—and sec. 2d on parental constitutions, are well worthy of consideration. In sec. 8d he says: "It is universally admitted, but not always avoided, that consanguineous marriages are gross violations of the laws of procreation. Physical deformity or mental inferiority is certain to appear in some of the descendants of such alliances." is another alliance that frequently happens, which, if possible, is more objectionable than the consanguineous, so far as regards the immediate progeny, but not so far as concerns society at large; and for the reason that they do not live to propagate. We allude to the union of individuals of the same temperament, or constitution. We are now acquainted with intellectual, energetic, and healthy parents, whose children are all dead, or else possess so little stamina that they will not reach maturity. This law obtains with all the temperaments, except the sanguine, but more particularly with the triple and quadruple combinations. Chapter 2d, is on the influence of maternal conditions on the fœtus, and the author refers to the generally acknowledged psychological influence of the mother on the fœtus; while in section 2d, he alludes to "the influence of children on a mother by a first husband with reference to children by a second." He says: "The conclusion contended for under the circumstances is, that a mother's constitutional identity becomes merged in that of her first husband, and consequently her children by a second husband will not resemble their father, nor inherit his qualities necessarily, nor her own, but those of her first husband." Chapter 8d is on maternal duties in relation to her child. Chapter 4th treats of physical injuries to the child. Chapter 5th is on mental injuries to the child; and Chapters 6 and 7 give valuable hints on personal attention to the child, and the location and construction of the nursery. Chapter 8th refers to the causes of juvenile mortality—and Chapter 9th discusses thoroughly the question of its necessity and utility as a means of preventing deterioration of the race.

Book II. begins with pathological considerations and symptomatology, and then thoroughly discusses the theory of, and gives throughout the Eclectic treatment for, those diseases to which the infantile being is liable. The authors have handled the subject in a masterly manner, and one cannot arise from the study of that part relating to the cerebral and cerebrospinal systems, or indeed from any other of the divisions, without confessing to having acquired some new ideas, and learned some new facts. This book is divided into two parts, the first of which refers to "manifestations of disease in the animal or cerebro-spinal system." It is subdivided into classes, orders, genera and species, and embraces diseases of the cerebral system; those of the spinal apparatus; of the respiratory system; of the circulatory system; of the derma; of the cellular system; of the organs of the external senses; and of the genital apparatus. Part

2d treats of "manifestations of disease in the vegetative system, including inflammatory and non-inflammatory diseases in the parts above the

diaphragm, and in the apparatus below the diaphragm.

Book III. is an investigation into the functions and pathological relations of the cerebellum. He locates in it the organs of amativeness, muscular motion, and animal sensibility. The two latter organs Prof. Powell discovered, and located himself, and his arguments and proofs are, in themselves, quite convincing. Part 2d, treats of the human temperaments. There are on this subject a great many radical differences between the views of the learned professor, and those heretofore advanced by He defines "Temperament to be a mode of animal being, sui generis, compatible with life, health, and longevity." He divides them into four original or elementary temperaments: sanguine, bilious, lymphatic and encephalic, the first two of which are essentially vital, and the last two essentially non-vital. Their combinations increase the number of the temperaments to binary, six; ternary, four; and quaternary, one. The subject is one which the Professor has more fully developed elsewhere in a work on the Human Temperaments, and while it is one of vast importance, it is but little comprehended by the profession. It appeals to us constantly every day, in our experience, to observe and substantiate the facts, or controvert them.

The work is gotten up on good paper, in excellent type and style, is handsomely bound, with life-like portraits of both the authors—and

contains 610 pages of letter-press.

NEWS AND MISCELLANY.

THE PUBLIC HEALTH.

The following is the report of Dr. Harris, of the Bureau of Vital Statistics, on the sanitary condition of New York and Brooklyn, for the week ending January 5:

METROPOLITAN BOARD OF HEALTH,
BUREAU OF VITAL STATISTICS, New York, January 8, 1867.

In the week ending January 5 there were 463 deaths in New York, including 34 in the public institutions. In the previous week there were but 884 deaths, 44 of which were in public institutions. In Brooklyn there was no such increase of mortality, but, on the contrary, a decrease, the deaths in that city last week amounting to only 148, while in the previous week, ending December 29, there were 175. This arithmetic of mortality imparts instructive lessons when its sums are analyzed and its leading facts understood. The annual rate of mortality in these cities is, and for many years has been, too high to be disregarded by thoughtful men, though there are ample causes for these high death-rates. Chief among these causes is the unhygienic condition of the tenant-houses of the laboring and poor classes.

The fluctuations in the weekly records of mortality in New York are traceable mainly to the wretched condition of daily life in that half million of the population that have accepted the unventilated and crowded tenant-house as hopeless fate. The kinds of sickness which afflict those

people increase in quantity and fatality as the biting cold drives them to shut every crevice where the fresh air entered during warmer days, and again in the hot season they must become the prey of putrid infections. In no other great cities with which we are in sanitary correspondence, save Liverpool, Dublin, and Glasgow, are the death-rates so variable, week by week. We mention this fact because of its practical significance when considered in connection with the weekly abstract of the causes and places of death. Last week the mortality in New York was equivalent to a yearly death-rate of 29.63 per 1,000 inhabitants (by census of 1865), and in the previous week it was as 25.91, exclusive of deaths in the island institutions. In Brooklyn the rates were as 30.7 and 22.61, respectively, the same weeks. The zymotic causes are charged with 26.4 and 21.16 per cent. of the total mortality in New York in the respective weeks. The first year of infancy gave nearly 24 per cent. and 23 per cent., respectively, of the total mortality. Scarlatina killed 64 children in New York and 20 in Brooklyn in the two weeks; typhus and typhoid fevers, 27 in New York and 9 in Brooklyn. Pulmonary diseases—272 persons in New York perished by these diseases the past two weeks. The mean temperature last week was 25° Fah., or 7° below freezing point; in the preceding week it was 31° Fah.

With the close of 1866 the mortality in the twelve months is summed up in the round numbers of 26,844. The reports now passing through the press tell all we accurately know of the causes of these deaths. Certain it is that neither the Board of Health nor the public press has covered anything from the free scrutiny of any one. It was an obvious duty to keep none of Death's doings hidden from the people. And now, lest the fearful sum of 26.844 may lead to a supposition that no improvement is made, we will here submit the monthly records of the last three months of each year for four years, including 1866:

	J	Average in previous		
1863.	1864.	1865.	three years.	1866.
October1,818	1,749	2,087	1,918	1,762
November 1,853	1,803	1,728	1,796	1,981
December1,996	1,752	1,572	1,773	1,895
<u></u>	 		·	<u> </u>
Total deaths in				
the $8 \text{ months.} \cdot 5,767$	5,309	5,887	5, 4 87	5,63 8

Unless a great work of improvement is effected in the sanitary condition of the common people in New York, the death-rate will continue to show that more than 500 lives are destroyed every month.

E. HARRIS.

ASTHMA.

BY H. E. FIRTH, M. D.

TREATMENT.—For the treatment of Asthmano routine course of practice can be recommended.

The causes of Asthma may be varied, and require treatment widely differing, both in its nature and therapeutic effect.

Yet for the relief of the spasm of Asthma I offer a remedy in the following formula, which, from experience, I can with confidence recommend:

Without detailing different varieties of Asthma, or rather the varied causes producing the disease, I will at once give my treatment for ordinary spasmodic asthma. I do not know whence the formula below first originated, but it was procured by me from one Dr. Wm. Stewart of Philadelphia, about twenty years ago, and has since been employed by me and others with the most signal success. Care should be taken that the articles composing it should be of the best quality.

B. English Valerian, Scullcap Herb, aā 3 ijss. Skunk Cabbage, 3 j. Lobelia Herb, 3 vj. "Seeds, 3 ij.

Make a saturated tincture; dose 1 tea-spoonful, sweetened, every 15 to 30 minutes until relieved.

If the pulse is full and hard, add to the tincture sufficient quantity of the tincture of veratrum viride to alter this condition of the circulation and assist more speedily in bringing the system under the influence of the medicine.

If the case is of long standing and severe, the following formula may be employed:

B. Asthma Tinct., Syrup. Senegæ, "Scillæ, ää ¾ j. Tinct. Digitalis, ¾ sa.

One tea-spoonful every half hour until relieved, then 8 or 4 times each day.

The above will be found very useful in asthma depending upon organic diseases of the heart, or aorta.

The iodide of potassium is also good in some cases, and may be given in connection with the medicine in v. gr. doses, 8 times each day.

In those cases in which the nutritive functions are at fault, cod liver

oil may be used conjointly with the medicine.

A fluid extract, made from the formula first given, with the addition of a small quantity of the tincture of veratrum viride, is one of the very best medicines I have ever used for the convulsions of children. Give in repeated doses until relieved. If not relieved in a short time, open the bowels freely; apply cold to the head, and cause—the patient to inhale chloroform in a sufficient quantity to produce relaxation.

If there is not organic disease of the brain your patient will be re-

lieved in very short time.

It is also beneficial in croup, and may be used in combination with the following articles:

B. Syrup. Senegæ,
Syrup. Scillæ,
Tinct. Sanguinariæ,
Asthma Tincture,
Tinct. Verat. Viridi, gtt. xij.

Sig. A half tea-spoonful every half hour or hour until relieved.

The tincture is an antispasmodic of the highest order, and may be useful in all diseases in which an antispasmodic is indicated.

100 Clermont Avenue, BROOKLYN.

AMERICAN

1375

ECLECTIC MEDICAL REVIEW;

A Monthly Record of Medicine

AND

THE COLLATERAL SCIENCES.

Vol. II.

MAY, 1867.

No. 12.

ORIGINAL COMMUNICATIONS.

Physiological Incest.

BY PROF. W. BYRD POWELL, M. D.

By the above title we designate Marriage in contravention of physical law.

The opinion is widely spread and deeply founded in the public mind that consanguine marriage deteriorates the species by entailing on progeny idiocy, such cerebral imperfections as result in insanity, and constitutions so depraved as to produce all the known forms of scrofulous disease. But statistics on both sides of the Atlantic have failed to sustain the truth of this very general opinion; on the contrary, they show that there are more of the evils complained of outside of the circles of consanguinity than within it, showing that the cause of the evils above named is more extensive than consanguine marriages. And of this character is a fact which was communicated to me a few weeks since, viz.: Dr. Patterson, Superintendent of the Ohio Idiotic Asylum, informs me that although he has been particular in his inquiries as to the progenitors of the idiots brought to the institution, yet he has succeeded in finding but two per cent.

of them to have had consanguine progenitors. This fact justifies the inference that an equal majority of idiots obtains outside of the influence of consanguinity in all of our other States, and, indeed, in all states and countries. This single fact is, in my opinion, sufficient to cast a shade of doubt upon the verity of the very prevalent opinion of consanguine influence on progeny.

Some fifteen years ago I was induced to suspect that a physiological incompatibility obtained between the sexes in relation to progeny, and it induced me to adopt an active and careful course of observation of progenitors and progeny, and the result has been an entire conviction of the truth of my suspicion. This incompatibility prevails extensively in society, and is, I am confident, the cause of all the idiocy, much of the insanity, all of the tubercular consumption of the lungs, and of mesenteric glands of the abdomen, and of all the scrofulous forms of disease incidental to the human race. This conviction induced me to denominate this incompatibility Physiological indeed, by which I mean, physiologically unlawful marriage.

This physiological incest obtains thus: Certain of the human temperaments are incompatible in relation to progeny, and this view of the fact has, a priori, a much greater probability of truth in it than the assumed cause, viz.: consanguinity; because temperament is a positive condition, and therefore capable of being an agent; but consanguinity is merely a relation, and therefore incapable of agency. After a few explanatory remarks in relation to the temperaments, I will show how this incest obtains.

I adopt that system of the temperaments, with some modification, which has descended to us from the ancients, the one with which the public mind is most familiar. It comprises four temperaments, viz.: sanguine, bilious, lymphatic, and melancholic. The description given of the last so strongly indicates a diseased condition, and the fact that all the illustrations I ever saw of it being diseased subjects, caused me to discard it from the catalogue of temperaments, and I did the same with the so-called nervous temperament,

and for the same reason; nevertheless, early in my investigation of the subject I became convinced that humanity was distinguished by four temperaments. And, after close and long-continued observation, I discovered what I deem to be the fourth temperament, and thirty years of additional observation have only confirmed me in the conviction that I did discover the fourth temperament, and I denominated it the encephalic.

A few words of explanation now become necessary. The sanguine and bilious temperaments constitute a sine qua non in the transmission of life and the perpetuity of the species. I infer, therefore, that they were originally founded in the constitution of the race, and hence I denominate them the vital temperaments. The lymphatic and encephalic temperaments I hold to be acquired conditions, to have resulted from influences incidental to civilization. They cannot transmit life, nor are they essential to life; hence I denominate them adjunctive temperaments. The two following laws, which have been deduced from an immense number of observations during a period of fifteen years, explain the rest:

- 1. The marriage of a person with another of the same temperament is incestuous.
- 2. When an adjunctive temperament enters into the constitution of both progenitors or parties to a marriage, it will be incestuous.

These two laws are sufficient to enable those who understand the temperaments to distinguish accurately all incestuous parties. Nevertheless, I will add a case or two that will illustrate both of them:

- I. When both of the parties to a marriage have the sanguine encephalic temperament, their children will die young of dropsy of the brain, or of tubercular inflammation of its membranes.
- II. When both of the parties to a marriage have the bilious encephalic temperament, their children will be idiotic.
 - III. When both of the parties to a marriage have the

bilious encephalic lymphatic temperament, their children, in the proportions of 5 to 7 or 9 to 11, will be dead-born, and the others will not live two years, respectively. These three cases illustrate both laws.

I will now illustrate the second law exclusively:

- IV. When one party is bilious lymphatic, and the other is sanguine bilious encephalic, their children will all die young of tubercular consumption of the lungs or abdominal glands, although neither of these forms of disease was ever in the ancestry of either party.
- V. If one party be sanguine encephalic, and the other bilious lymphatic, the progeny will die young of tuberculous forms of disease.
- VI. If one party be bilious encephalic, and the other sanguine encephalic bilious lymphatic, the children will sooner or later become insane.

In the three preceding illustrations the temperaments of the parties, respectively, are greatly different, yet as in each case both parties partake constitutionally of an adjunctive temperament, all the marriages are respectively incestuous.

A crude notion of the first law prevails extensively in this country; hence we hear it frequently said that a person in seeking a companion in marriage should select one who is as opposite to him or herself as possible; hence a bilious lymphatic, who has a full and rotund body, dark brown or black hair and eyes, with a dark, sallow complexion, sets out to look for a wife, and finds a lady of a lean, spare person, and so gaunt about the abdomen as to appear disembowelled, with light hair, fair skin and blue eyes. delighted in having found the right one, as he believes, because she is the opposite of himself as it is possible for one to be; he proposes marriage to her, and she, being influenced by the same notion, accepts of him, and then in six or seven years, or less time, they are greatly surprised that they cannot have a child to live five years. These parties constitute case V. There is an adjunctive temperament in both of them. This blunder is often made. I know of no means by which incestuous marriages can be avoided, except

a knowledge of the temperaments. Ninety-five times in a hundred, young people in observing the first law violate the second.

- Law 3. In all marriages with a view to or expectation of progeny, one of the parties should have an exclusively vital temperament, and then it is best that the other party should be more or less adjunctive.
- 1. Illustration: one party sanguine, the other bilious encephalic, or lymphatic, or bilio-encephalic lymphatic.
- 2. One party bilious, the other sanguine encephalic, or lymphatic or sanguino-encephalic lymphatic.
- 3. One party sanguine bilious, the other sanguine lymphatic or bilious lymphatic, sanguine or bilious encephalic, or bilio-encephalic lymphatic.

These are all good marriages.

Laryngitis.*

BY ROBERT S. NEWTON, M. D.,

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Under the above head are four varieties: 1. Mucous Laryngitis; 2. Sub-mucous Laryngitis; 3. Pseudo-membranous Laryngitis; 4. Spasmodic Laryngitis.

MUCOUS LARYNGITIS.

This is an erythematic inflammation of the mucous membrane of the larynx, which is frequently met with in children of advanced age; but no age is exempt from it. It sometimes exists alone, but frequently follows coryza, and frequently arises in the course of scarlatina, variola, etc. It is not uncommon for it to descend and involve the trachea and bronchia, but more frequently extends upward to the fauces, and sometimes invades all. By

^{*}This is a chapter from the new edition of Newton & Powell's Eclectic Practice of Medicine.

looking into the fauces, the velum, uvula, and fauces are found always red.

The progress of this disease is usually rapid, but its symptoms are frequently obscure at first; the patient, however, will always be found manifesting more irritability and restlessness than would be expected from the existing signs of disease.

In infancy, the cry is sufficient to diagnose the disease when it is violent. It is frequently so faint as scarcely to be heard in acute attacks, but becomes more distinct as the inflammation lessens. This inflammation, even in its mildest form, is attended with an abundant secretion of mucus, which at first is clear and thin, but it soon becomes thick and yellow.

This disease is frequently so mild as to attract but little attention, and even this mild form of it is apt to destroy all audible voice, a whisper is the loudest sound the patient can make; in infants, the cry may be similarly affected. But the helplessness of infants renders the disease, however, more dangerous to them, because of the mucous accumulations, which they cannot readily throw off.

Some degree of fever usually attends this disease, and it may appear simultaneously with the other symptoms, or not until they have appeared. It usually runs its course in five or six days, terminating in resolution, the secretion of mucus, or it may pass into the chronic state.

SUB-MUCOUS LARYNGITIS.

This is said to be the disease of which General Washington died. This circumstance not only distinguishes it, but gives it, almost, a diagnostic character.

Sub-mucous laryngitis is more common to adults than to children; it is only a violent stage of the mucous or erythematic variety. Some of the symptoms, such, for example, as commencing with a chill, which is followed by fever, attended with alternating sensations of chilliness and heat, would seem to indicate a disease of a more extensive invasion and consequently of more danger.

That an erythematic inflammation can be mild or violent, is not a matter of doubt, but when it leaves its proper residence, the surface, and seizes upon a sub-tissue, it is no longer the same form of disease; consequently if the sub-mucous tissue of the larynx constitute a part of this affection, it is not simply an inflammation of the mucous surface, though it may have been originally. We do, then, regard this as an essentially different form of disease, although an observance of the distinction may be of no diagnostic or therapeutic importance.

That there is not more than one or two per centum of fatal cases in the previous disease, is very probable, and if there be less than fifty in this, it is not so violent as we think it to be. We speak with reference to that kind of practice which General Washington had the misfortune to have. Many cases supposed to be of the previous variety, which terminated fatally, may really have passed into this, and effected the mischief; but to us, it is more probable that laryngeal accumulations of mucus did the mischief, because both varieties appear to maintain an independent consistency from beginning to end.

Among the first symptoms is sore throat, with difficult and painful deglutition. These symptoms should always excite alarm, unless we are satisfied that the inflamed condition of the fauces is sufficient to explain the full extent of the symptom, which it cannot do, when it is occasioned, mostly, by an inflammation of the epiglottis.

The function of expiration is perhaps always easy, but that of inspiration is exceedingly painful and difficult, because of the inflamed and swollen condition of the membrane of the glottis, which causes it to close against the entrance of the air, consequently the acts of inspiration are greatly prolonged and attended with a whistling, wheezing sound, as though the air were drawn through a reed.

When the air passage is very narrow, the tumefaction of the mucous and sub-mucous tissues may produce suffocation, and then we have added to the phenomena which usually follow such an event, the facial expression of great pain and suffering. In this disease, the epiglottis sometimes becomes so inflamed and swollen as to become incapable of a normal adaptation to the glottis, whereby particles of substances, in the process of deglutition, obtain access to the larynx, and produce intense irritation, which is succeeded by paroxysmal coughing and a painful difficulty of breathing.

In this stage of the disease, the patient is exceedingly restless and distressed, never able to sleep but a few minutes at a time, so urgent are the demands for fresh air; the system begins to show signs of insufficient oxygenation—the surface becomes cool; the pulse becomes small, frequent, and feeble; the lips bluish; the face livid, and, in the respiratory efforts, the shoulders rise, the chest heaves, the skin becomes covered with a clammy, cold sweat, and then succeed delirium, coma, and death.

But death does not always come on thus gradually—life is sometimes suddenly arrested by a complete closure of the air-passage to the windpipe; but without this event, so rapid is the course of the disease sometimes, that death may supervene at any time between seven or eight hours and three or four days; and yet, when the attack is mild and slowly progressive, it may continue three or four weeks, and then terminate in death, in resolution, in the chronic form, or by serous effusion into the sub-mucous tissue, and thus death may result from a recuperative process of the system, and it may not—depending entirely upon the extent of the effusion.

Diagnosis.—Constitutional results, resembling those of laryngitis, do sometimes attend manifestations of disease in the cliest; but still, we cannot consider it as scarcely possible that either can be mistaken for the other. The seat of the pain, the change of voice, and the peculiar cough should always distinguish laryngitis from pectoral affections.

TREATMENT.—The treatment of the mucous and submucous forms of laryngitis will be similar; it should be commenced with a mild emetic, as the Compound Tincture of Lobelia; after which, some slightly stimulating liniment should be applied to the neck and throat, two or three times

a day, followed by the application of cloths wet with warm water, or a warm fomentation around the throat. The feet and legs should be placed in a vessel of warm lye-water for ten or fifteen minutes, and which may be repeated daily, or even twice a day. Expectorants must be administered, such as the Compound Tincture of Lobelia, in small doses, repeated several times a day; or,

B. Syrup of Squills,
Syrup of Senega, āā 3j;
Camphorated Tinct. of Opium, 3ij;
Tinct. of Lobelia, 3j. Mix.

Of this give half a teaspoonful every half hour until slight nausea is obtained.

The warm vapor of vinegar should be inhaled several times a day. The bowels should be kept open by laxatives, and if there be much febrile disturbance, the Veratrum, Gelseminum and Asclepius should be given freely until the febrile reaction is controlled, and free disphoresis is established.

When these two forms of disease become more active, and consequently more serious, they demand a prompt and energetic course—the emetic may be repeated daily for several days; diaphoresis should be constantly kept up, and some rubefacient applied to the back of the neck and between the shoulders.

The room should be kept warm, being careful not to allow a current of cool air to pass over the patient. If this is neglected, death may follow in a few minutes.

The use of a gargle composed of an infusion of equal parts of Hydrastis Canadensis, Myrica Cerifera, and common salt, to half a pint of which may be added a drachm of black pepper and two ounces of vinegar;—the throat may be gargled with this four or five times a day.

After the severe inflammatory symptoms have subsided, leaving a troublesome cough with irritation of the fauces, glottis, etc., the following compound will prove very beneficial:

B. Comp. Syr. Stillingia, 3j; Comp. Syr. Helianthus, 3iv; Tr. Opii. Camph. 3j. Mix.

Take a tablespoonful of this compound several times a day, when the cough is very troublesome.

As we referred to the case of General Washington in the beginning of this disease, we will now give a complete history of the same, from which will be seen with what a certainty has the allopathic heroism in practice made the old soldier, the statesman, the patriot, and millions of human beings, bow to its power.

General Washington's Case and Death.—"I shall here give in illustration the observations on the medical treatment of General Washington's last illness, by John Reid, M. D., physician to the Finsbury English Dispensary, and Professor of Theory and Practice of Physic.

"In reading the official report of the death of General Washington, as stated in the newspapers, &c., I should imagine there were few medical persons who do not feel astonished at the extraordinary manner in which that great man was treated by his physicians during his last and fatal indisposition.

"'Some time in the night of the 13th of December, it is said, the General was seized by a disease called the cynanche trachealis (croup). During the same night he sent for a bleeder, who took from him twelve or fourteen ounces of blood. Next morning a physician was sent for, who arrived at Mount Vernon at eleven o'clock; when imagining danger in the case, he advised the calling of two consulting physicians. In the interval, however, he thought proper to employ, in spite of the twelve ounces that had already been expended, two copious bleedings. Now when we consider that these are called *copious*, and the other is not noticed as such, and all indifference with which a future *most copious* bleeding is afterward mentioned, we may presume that each of these was twenty-five or twenty ounces at least.

"'After this, "two moderate doses of calomel were ad

ministered." I know not exactly what an American moderate dose of calomel may be, but if it is fair to presume it to be in proportion to the bleedings, we may conclude that it was at least very considerable.

"'Upon the arrival of the first consulting physician, it was agreed that, as there were no signs of accumulation in the bronchial vessels of the lungs, they should try another bleeding.

- "'Now this appears to be perfectly inexplicable. As there were at present no signs of accumulation in the lungs, they were driven to another bleeding. Hence it will be seen, that this last bleeding was to produce an accumulation in the bronchial vessels of the lungs. There was great difficulty of breathing, great inflammation; but as there was as yet no accumulation in the lungs, they were determined to induce that also; and, as a likely means of inducing it, had recourse to the most extravagant effusion of blood.
- "'This is not an unfair interpretation of their words; but it could not have been their real meaning; their real meaning it is impossible to discover. In addition to all their previous venesections, thirty-two ounces are now drawn. The medical reader will not be surprised to find that this was unattended by any apparent alienation of the disease.
- "'In the next place, vapors of vinegar and water are frequently inhaled. Two doses of calomel were already given; but this not being deemed sufficient, ten grains of calomel are added—nor is even this sufficient. Repeated doses of emetic tartar, amounting in all to five or six grains, are now administered. It is said that the powers of life now seemed to yield to the force of the disorder. To many it may appear that the yielding of the vital principle, in these circumstances, was not altogether owing to the force of the disorder.
- "'The patient lying in this feeble and nearly exhausted state, is to be still further tormented.
- "Blisters were next applied to his extremities, together with a cataplasm of bran and vinegar to his throat. It is

observed that speaking, which was painful from the beginning, now became scarcely practicable. When we reflect upon the extreme weakness to which the patient must by this time be reduced; and that he had both a blister and a cataplasm of bran and vinegar to his throat, can we wonder that speaking would be scarcely practicable, respiration grow more and more contracted and imperfect, until after eleven o'clock at night he expired without a struggle.

"'Think of a man being within the short space of little more than twelve hours deprived of eighty or ninety ounces of blood; afterward swallowing two moderate doses of calomel, which were accompanied by an injection; then five grains of calomel and five or six grains of emetic tartar; vapors of vinegar and water frequently inhaled; blisters applied to his extremities; a cataplasm of bran and vinegar applied to his throat, upon which a blister had already been fixed; is it surprising that when thus treated, the afflicted General, after various inffectual struggles for utterance, at length articulated a desire that he might be allowed to die without interruption?

"'To have resisted the fatal operation of such herculean remedies, one would imagine that the venerable old man ought at least have retained the vigor of his earliest youth.'"—American Practice.

PSEUDO-MEMBRANOUS LARYNGITIS-CROUP.

This is an inflammation, essentially of the larynx, but it may extend through the trachea, and even into the bronchia, and, according to some writers, even into the bronchial cells. It is attended by the rapid formation of a pellicular concretion, which is spread over the walls of the larynx, and, in some cases, lines the trachea and extends into the bronchia. Before the production of this pseudo or pellicular membrane, the mucous membrane is always much inflamed, red, and gorged with blood; the sub-mucous tissue also participates in the injection, and when the inflamed membrane is at the same time the seat of sanguineous exhala-

tion, this exhalation is seen to be accompanied, or followed, by the concretion before named.

From these circumstances, it may be inferred, that croup is a catarrhal inflammation, or holds some striking affinities with it, and the blood, normally destined for mucous secretion, becomes plastic by the inflammation, and thereby imparts to the mucus a portion of its fibrin, and hence, by concretion, comes the pseudo-membrane that distinguishes this modification of disease.

All agree that it is not a disease incidental to the earliest periods of life, and yet, essentially a disease of youth, or early life, most frequently occurring between the ages of two and five years, sometimes younger, sometimes older, and among adults in the ratio of about one-tenth of one per cent.

In the commencement, the symptoms are precisely like those of catarrhal croup, and so they continue, until the voice begins to become whispering and the cough husky; up to this time, it is possible that there is only an engorgement of the respiratory passages, with a high state of irritation—the existence of inflammation is barely possible, at all events, no exudation has taken place. If the disease do not begin in the larynx, the introductory cough may, in no wise, differ from a common catarrhal one, and the voice may be equally of the same character; but after a while, the voice sinks to a whisper, and no efforts of the patient can raise it; from sonorousness it becomes husky and apparently stifled in the throat, and appears in paroxysms;—following the cough, the inspirations are short and whistling.

Sometimes the disease begins in the bronchia, and then the introductory symptoms are those of bronchitis; sometimes its outset is in or about the fauces, and then the symptoms are catarrhal, and attended with sore throat and more or less painful deglutition, hoarseness being the first indication of an invasion of the larynx.*

^{*}It is said that the colds or catarrhs of children are never attended with hoarseness. If this be true, and we believe that Cheyne is the au-

But no matter where the disease began, the breathing at length becomes labored, and sounds as though it were passing through a contracted and unyielding surface.

All audible voice now becomes extinct, and any effort to speak produces paroxysms of a low and smothered cough, with pain in the throat and superior portion of the thorax; an anxious expression of impending suffocation covers the face; the disposition is restless; the features are swollen and darkened, the breathing very difficult, and the extremities cold. Sooner or later the paroxysm relaxes—the patient obtains some rest; but before his wearied system becomes refreshed, he is roused by another paroxysm of probably increased violence—the respiration is hurried to three or four times its normal standard.

Sooner or later in the disease, febrile action sets in, and aways in the ratio of the other symptoms; sometimes it appears at the very onset, and runs high.

Between this disease and laryngitis proper, there is this analogy: both run their course rapidly, proving fatal sometimes in twenty-four hours, but more frequently in forty-eight; and then, again, it may continue five or six days.

Upon the event of a favorable turn in the disease, the cough changes and sounds as if something had become loose in the trachea, and with this change there is a general mitigation of all the symptoms; the coughing brings up viscid mucus, sometimes patches, strips, and even tubes of the pseudo-membranous concretion. Finally, this membranous matter is either absorbed or discharged, and the patient recovers.

But, on the contrary, should no change have been manifested for the better, the sonorous and wheezing respiration will become so increased, as to be heard to a considerable distance—every muscle that can aid the respiratory function is brought into requisition, the arms are spread asunder, the head is thrown back, the nostrils are extended, the chest drawn up, and the facial expression tells that it is all for

thority, parents should give particular attention to it—it will give them a timely admonition of the impending danger.

breath—every expression of agony is impressed upon it, and it is manifested through every muscle of the chest and neck—the skin becomes cold and clammy, the pulse increases in quickness and feebleness, the lips become livid, the face cold and pale, the brain, not being reinforced by properly oxygenized blood, ceases to superintend the struggles for relief, and the curtain of stupor or drowsiness drops before the scene, or it rallies the remaining elements of life into a last effort, which results in convulsions and death.

It is not, however, always the case that the patient is permitted to struggle while there is strength, for life is frequently cut short by suffocation.

When the cry is so changed that the reprise portion of it can only be heard, and when heard, it is acute and sudden, like the crowing of a young cock, and when the voice is lost, we may safely conclude that croup is present.

Causes.—Croup is much more common to northern than to temperate and southern latitudes—much more common in dry, cold weather, with northern winds, than in any other; more common to a sea-coast, lake, or river situation than to interior ones.

It is now generally admitted, that not less than one-half of all the cases which obtain in cold latitudes, terminate fatally.

It is more frequently met with in males than females, and with sanguine lymphatic, sanguine-bilious lymphatic, and sanguine encephalo-lymphatic temperaments than others.

Diagnosis.—Spasmodic, cerebral, or catarrhal laryngitis or croup, is the only form of disease with which pseudomembranous laryngitis or croup can be confounded, and between these the diagnosis is so well marked that such a mistake should never be committed. This form of disease comes on slowly, more or less like a common catarrh; that, the spasmodic, attacks suddenly, and is but rarely, if ever, preceded by catarrhal symptoms. The former may appear suddenly, in some instances, but then its character is so essentially febrile, while the latter is not, that they need not to be confounded.

Febrile intermissions never attend the former, except occasionally after vomiting; but complete intermissions do attend the latter—remissions only characterize the former. The stridulous sound of the cough and inspiration so peculiar to the former, is absent in the spasmodic form. In the former, the pulse is excited and irritated, generally quick, tense, frequent, and full, with an increased or febrile elevation of the cutaneous temperature; but, in the latter, the pulse is small and contracted, and the cutaneous temperature continues natural.

Prognosis.—This form of croup is always to be regarded as dangerous, and the extent of the danger is always indicated by the violence of the inflammation;—its danger, furthermore, as a general fact, is in proportion to the suddenness of the attack.

At one time a majority of the cases of this form of croup terminated fatally—it is still attended with much fatality, and necessarily must be so long as fever and inflammation are treated as forms of disease—so long as the idea of sustaining vital energies consists in breaking them down by too active medication.

TREATMENT.—We are required, in aiding nature in this form of disease, to relax the constricted or spasmed organs—the skin is in this condition, as indicated by its heated and febrile condition. In the second place, we are required to strengthen the debilitated organs, which are the larynx and probably the trachea, for otherwise, they would not have become the seat of obstruction or disease, and as a proof of the fact, they are highly excited and labor under an excessive action.

To meet the first indication, an emetic should be promptly administered, and which should be as promptly repeated, as often as the peculiar croupy inspiration occurs; and the most efficacious articles that can be used for this purpose, are the Compound Tincture of Lobelia, or the Acetous Emetic Tincture. After having produced free emesis, either of these tinctures must be continued in doses sufficient to produce expectoration, and in severe cases, even

nausea. Hot water should be applied to the throat constantly, and the skin should be thoroughly cleansed, and as far as possible relaxed by the warm lye-wash.

In the mean time, or as soon as cutaneous relaxation shall have been effected, the second indication should be attended to. For this purpose, Cayenne or Mustard poultices should be applied to the extremities and the neck, or as near to the weakened parts as possible.

Half a drop of the Oil of Stillingia, placed upon the tongue, has in the practice of several Eclectic physicians, as well as in our own, rendered immediate relief, and ultimately, by its repetition, cured cases of this disease, which had absolutely resisted all previous treatment, and the cases were supposed beyond the influence of medication—thus fulfilling all the indications claimed to be produced by the employment of calomel at the hands of the old-school physicians. We have also found it beneficial, when applied externally, in the form of a liniment:

P. Oil of Stillingia, 3j;
 Oil of Lobelia, 3ij;
 Alcohol, 3vj. Mix.

The throat, neck, and chest must be bathed with this three or four times a day; and after each application, a fomentation should be applied, composed of two parts of Hops, one part of Lobelia, with equal parts of vinegar and water; boil together, and apply the herbs.

Bleeding and purging are quite universally practised in the treatment of such forms of disease as produce inflammation, for their removal, and we have, in several instances, intimated that both are enfeebling or prostrating—destructive of the vital forces, while neither of them is depurating and consequently neither of them can be properly indicated in the removal of disease, because disease most frequently has its origin in defective depuration.

According to these views, and we hold them to be sound, we should direct our efforts to the renal and cutaneous secretions first, and then to those of the glandular sys-

tem in general. The bowels, therefore, claim our attention no further than to see that their accumulations do not become a source of irritation.

Although we regard proper external applications to the neck as being of much service, by relieving the part of much of its capillary congestion, yet we should not neglect the use of stimulating gargles, such as the one recommended in the mucous forms of laryngitis.

It often happens that when the croupy symptoms have been relieved, the evidences of constitutional irritation still exist; in such cases, we may safely suspect that the liver, and probably other glands, have not resumed their proper functions. In such cases we may have recourse to aperient and stimulating alteratives.

SPASMODIC LARYNGITIS-FALSE CROUP, CATARRHAL CROUP.

This form of disease is never attended with the production of a deciduous or pseudo-membrane in any portion of the respiratory passages.

SYMPTOMS.—The initiatory usually consists of such catarrhal symptoms as coryza, suffusion of the eyes, chilly sensations succeeded by those of heat, some hoarseness, and cough.

These symptoms may continue for several days, or only for twenty-four or forty-eight hours, without much modification, which usually occurs at night and during sleep, consisting of the strongest indications of impending suffocation; such as cough and dyspnæa, with struggles of the muscular system in aid of the respiratory function.

Sometimes it is introduced by a croupy cough, some fever, and hoarseness, which may continue a few hours or even days, before the arrival of a paroxysm such as above described. The paroxysms, as they obtain in different cases, present two great extremes: in some cases they are quite mild, and excite no particular fears—in others, they are so violent as to produce the strongest apprehensions of immediate suffocation. Between these extremes every grade or degree of violence will be observed in practice.

During a paroxysm, the face is forced into those conditions and expressions which mark a case of strangulation—it is swelled, of a violet or dark-red hue, the eyes are humid and projected in their orbits, the expression of the face is anxious, the respiration is hissing and protracted, the voice is reduced, but never to a whisper, the surface is hot, the pulse quick, and the cough, if present, which occurs at intervals, is hoarse. These are the usual phenomena of a paroxysm, and when concluded, sleep ensues.

A single paroxysm may terminate the disease; at all events, the patient will only be troubled with hoarseness and a dry, barking cough until the next night, when, if the disease has not terminated, the patient will have another paroxysm, possibly two, and thus the disease continues to its close, with one or two paroxysms per night.

In some cases, however, the paroxysms recur more frequently, and each one is characterized by more violence than the preceding, until finally a greater degree of violence becomes incompatible with life, and death, by asphyxia, closes the scene.

But in the midst of a paroxysm a change for the better may supervene, and when it does, it is usually indicated by signs of secretion, as a loose cough, and the throwing up of some mucus; the violence of the symptoms is mitigated, the cough loses its harsh ring, the inspiratory sounds have a mucous character, the croupy and febrile symptoms disappear, and between three or four days and two weeks, the patient is well.

But, instead of a favorable turn, additional and more exhausting symptoms may appear, as great restlessness, nausea, and vomiting, followed by a small, frequent, and vanishing pulse, cold extremities, clammy sweats, coma, and death.

Predisposing Causes.—However difficult it may be to determine, precisely, the pathological differences between the several forms of laryngitis over which we have passed, the diagnosis, in general, is quite unmistakable. When we consider the fact that they are all more or less inflam-

matory and involve the same parts, it would seem possible, and even probable, that catarrh might be provoked into the mucous laryngitis, and that the milder forms of this might likewise be converted into the more severe; and yet we have no reliable evidence that they do thus merge into each other.

Croupal symptoms and pseudo-membranous concretions are sometimes occasioned by scarlatina, but we have not, from any writer, learned that spasmodic laryngitis is ever produced in the same manner; and if it be not, then this circumstance adds to the evidence that croup and pseudo-croup are not different degrees of the same form of disease—that they are not varieties of the same species. From what we have been able to learn, we deem it to be as impossible for one form to pass into the other, as it is for catarrh, in early infancy, to pass into croup.

Exciting Causes.—These are usually such as occasion catarrh—such as an improper or unprotected exposure to a cold and damp atmosphere, or sudden atmospheric changes.

This form of croup is liable to a frequent recurrence—as frequent as may be the exposures to the causes that usually produce it. All the forms of laryngitis may be regarded as being produced by the ordinary causes of catarrh.

Diagnosis.—The diagnosis between the two forms of croup we have given under the head of pseudo-membranous croup, and therefore, in this place, we will barely add, that the seat of the pain, the change of the voice, and the peculiarity of the cough should always distinguish both forms of croup from all pectoral forms of disease.

Prognosis.—All the forms of laryngitis must be regarded as dangerous, if permitted to run their own course, but this form is much less dangerous than the pseudo-membranous, and therefore it may be regarded as generally favorable; and yet, when prolonged beyond the third day, and is still increasing in violence, and more especially when attended by nausea and vomiting, an unfavorable termination may be expected.

TREATMENT.—When the affection is characterized by

much inflammation, the treatment recommended for pseudomembranous croup should be adopted, only modifying to suit a lower grade of action.

American Eclecticism—Its History, Utility, and Destiny.*

BY J. W. JOHNSON, M. D.

THE term *Eclectic*, as applied to medicine, signifies to select from each and every system of medical practice, and from all sources whatsoever, the best remedies or agents, or such as are so regarded by the exercise of sound judgment, aided by intelligence, experience, and observation; and make a correct and therapeutical application of them in the treatment of disease. In thus defining Eclecticism as applied to medicine, I am not aware that I entirely agree with Webster or other lexicographers, who give a general definition of the term, as applied to medicine, literature, and the various departments of science and arts, theology, &c. Theories promulgated, doctrines enunciated, are subject to the discriminating and sifting action of Eclecticism. alone is unchangeable, and the severest scrutiny will fail to discover any field for the exercise of this power. But especially in all matters pertaining to or affecting the welfare of the human family, and more especially of life and health, the exercise of this prerogative is commendable, and may well be employed. But one is ready to inquire, How is it possible to base a system of medicine upon such a nomenclature? it being generally conceded that names to a certain extent are arbitrary and unmeaning, while it is as generally admitted that principles, enunciated and practised, exercise a wielding power, for good or evil-for weal or woe. We reply, the name we inscribe upon our banner gives us a distinctive organization, and forms for us the basis of a system of medical practice, which we claim has merited, and

^{*} Address of the President of the Connecticut Eclectic Medical Association, at the Annual meeting at Hartford, Ct., May 14th, 1867.

still lays claim for a portion of the favorable consideration of the community. While the peculiarity of our system depends mainly upon therepeutics, or the remedial department, yet in some forms of disease, we hold a difference in views in pathology, as febrile and inflammatory diseases, &c. Another may be led to inquire, if all physicians are not eclectic in their practice, choosing such remedies as their judgment shall pronounce the best. To this inquiry we can only say that, to a certain extent, this may be true; and we shall be likely to find that eclectic or judicious selections are more likely to be exercised by medical men of large experience, or who are advanced in medical life; for the casual observer cannot fail to have discovered the strong tendency of all medical men in their early practice, after finishing their regular course of medical studies, to base their practice chiefly upon book-knowledge, collegiate and clinical instruction; and hence, not until after the lapse of several years, will the physician be likely to bring to his aid in practice an intelligent, enlightened, and sound judgment. I believe it to be a well-conceded fact that young physicians, who have but just emerged from their studies, and commenced practice, usually rely to a far greater extent upon formulas and pharmacological works than after years of medical experience; and besides, as general observation and facts will show, exhibit more confidence in their skill, and display more medical wisdom, than after mature observation and experience in the art. There is also in the medical field a strong tendency to become routinists; prescribing "for ever and a day" the same class of remedies for certain diseases. So strong is this habit with many physicians that the pharmaceutist can frequently tell at a glance the author of the prescription which he is called upon to dispense. While this practice is to a certain extent judicious, nevertheless it fails to show on the part of the medical man any considerable amount of scientific medical investigation. It evinces a limited amount of therapeutical knowledge, and, as a practice to any considerable extent on the part of the medical man, may be considered reprehensible.

Eclecticism in medicine, or, as it has been justly termed, the American System of Liberal Medicine, unfolds to its votaries the broad fields of nature and science, and allows them to glean from every and all sources those remedial agents which their judgment pronounces superior, or adapted to the peculiar condition of the pathological or diseased action with which he has to contend; and while it usually discards the mercurials, antimonials, arsenicals, general phlebotomy and many other of the deleterious and potent inorganic and organic agents, frequently relied upon by our Allopathic friends, yet all of these agents, by the broad principles by which we are governed, are within our reach, and may be called to our aid if in our judgment they are indicated.

Says an able writer: "What Eclecticism is, superficially or in form, is not so difficult a matter for us to determine; for its history is within the scope of our memories."* is philosophically, is perhaps a far more important question it for us to consider. We believe there has been no time in the whole history of medicine, but has shown large, and, many times, glaring defects, in that science—and in too many instances an overbearing and intolerant spirit on the part of its cultivators. The science has been shrouded in mystery, and the practice of it has, in all ages, tended to a severity which, in the treatment of many diseases, has materially endangered human life, to say nothing of injured systems and shattered constitutions. A few men of quick discernment have at all times protested against this mysticism and this severity, and have contended for a greater simplicity, and a greater reliance upon the innocuous organic agents which grow out of the earth broadcast, on every hill and in every valley of the great domain of the universe. They have also protested against the universal practice of shrouding in mystery the healing art; urging the necessity of disrobing the science of many of its technicalities, which greatly retard the general

^{*}Having its origin in the great mind of a noble son of the Granite State, of massive intellect, of native talents, and originality almost if not quite unsurpassed in the history of noble pioneers.

diffusion of physiology and the other collateral branches of the healing art among the masses; for it cannot be denied that a *general* (not to say *minute*) knowledge of the science can safely be trusted to the great mass of the people; for in the possession of this knowledge a vast amount of disease and suffering might be prevented by the adoption of prophylactic or preventive means.

We believe that a greater simplicity in the practice of the healing art would ensure more favorable results, and leave the system unexposed to the almost innumerable ailments which have ever attended the harsher means of medication. Perhaps at no time had medical despotism been more despotic than at the period when Eclecticism sprang into existence and at no time previous had there been so universal an expression of professional dissatisfaction, by the springing up of new systems, as they were called; and a retrospective glance will satisfy any reasonable man that it was a glorious thought, the bringing together all these systems, new and old, to compare, to select from them those facts and agents, which common sense and an enlightened and successful experience alike seemed to indicate, as well as to reject those whose tendency was manifestly and certainly injurious. is needless to say this was the origin of the American Eclectic system of medicine, and that it has been eminently successful, and has continued to work and win its way, until it has now advocates in every section of the Western, and in many parts of the Eastern world. The internal life—the vital principle which animates it—and which is to promulgate its principles, and, if properly conducted, is sure to urge it to a certain triumph, should not for a moment be lost sight of by its advocates. As will be supposed, our therapentic department furnishes a wide, and some will be ready to affirm, a distinctive, difference from that of the other systems which prevail at the present day. As we have before remarked, we reject mercurials and some other agents frequently employed, believing them to be deleterious, but have added largely to the Materia Medica by the introduction of Podophyllin, Leptandrin, Hydrastin, and 70 or 80 other active prinrance

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ciples of valuable vegetable remedies which contain the remedial virtues in concentration. So generally diffused and highly valued are these agents, that they have become a staple article of traffic by the druggists, and have been adopted to a considerable extent by all classes of physicians. active principle of the Mandrake-Podophyllin, the a remedy of great power and potency, exerting a marked action upon the biliary secretions, and answering all the indications sought from the employment of mercurials, a remedy of power, yet leaving no baneful effects upon the system after its employment—bids fair to entirely supplant the "Samson of the Materia Medica," or mercury—producing all the beneficial action, and none of the injurious effects of But the remedial department does not constitute that agent. all the difference existing between the system we advocate and others in vogue at the present day. And while it is a matter of rejoicing and exultation that we have added so largely to the Materia Medica, and that we have at hand so large and valuable a class of agents to combat disease, yet we claim a difference in our views of pathology in some forms of disease, particularly those of an inflammatory char-We are told daily that our views of pathology do not acter. differ materially, nor our application of physiological truths to the investigation of pathology, and that it is only in therapeutics that we mark out a course for ourselves. Let us inquire, is such the fact? Indeed, would such a difference be sufficient, or a suitable one, on which to base a superstructure of medicine, a fabric honorable, honored, or lasting. apeutics may be truly considered important in the science and practice of the healing art; but we must admit that they are, and ever have been changing—and, indeed, it may be but a short time before we shall come together in therapeutics upon some common ground—the result of which would be to lose our identities. Says an able writer, "Is there indeed no distinction or characteristic difference, except that pertaining to therapeutics? Can we not so embody the spirit of reform and progress in medicine, as ever to keep us far in advance of the progress of exclusivism, as we believe our-

selves to be now?" If we would extend our principles, push onward the car of liberal medicine, we must divest ourselves of that accursed spirit of extreme selfishness, of radical exclusiveness; have no fellowship with that pharisaical spirit which exclaims, "Stand one side, I am holier than thou!" We must cultivate a friendly interchange of sentiment and brotherly feeling. Indeed, if we would honor our cause we must erect an edifice in medicine which encourages free and expansive thought, the most exalted and the most progressive action, as well as an entire deliverance from every oppressive thraldom and prejudice, or even a tendency to them. Let us for a moment compare our practice with others, and see how they correspond. It is often said that our views of the pathology of fevers and inflammatory diseases do not materially differ from that of other schools. The allopath, in accordance with his pathology, will plunge the lancet into the veins, and rob the system of the very pabulum of life—then bring it under the influence of the most antiphlogistic agents, and so keep it until it is brought to the lowest point of vitality. On the contrary, we take no blood from that excited system, we use no remedies that are calculated to reduce the proper forces of the system; and become alarmed at the great loss of vitality in severe cases. And our great endeavor is and ever should be, so to remove obstructions to the play of the physiological functions, as to keep them acting as much up to the standard of health as possible. The question then may properly be asked, if our pathology is the same, how can our practice be so diametrically opposite, not only in febrile and inflammatory diseases, but in most of the cases we treat? eclectics, our pathology of fevers and inflammations does not agree with that of the allopathic faith, for we are led to believe that in all febrile and inflammatory diseases there is an absolute diminution of vital heat in the system, and the peculiar febrile and inflammatory manifestations which usually occur in those forms of diseases, are only caused by an unequal distribution of the vital forces; and hence our aim is to remove obstructions to the performance of the different physiological functions, restore an equilibrium, and the patient is

cured; and while we do not desire to be regarded as egotistical, we believe that a careful statistical investigation will show a favorable result in the treatment of that class of diseases by those of our faith—in the employment of those remedies acting in harmony with the laws of life. Says an able writer,—"Physiological facts of course must be the same in all schools, but the application of these facts to the different abnormal conditions may be as varied as the prejudices or attainments of those who chance to make them, and according to our views of the different pathological conditions of the system, so will our therapeutics be; for what are therapeutics based upon, except it be admitted pathological conditions?"

Now let me inquire, what does this assumed condition lead us to? It should be regarded as an index pointing to the true philosophy of the eclectic system; a voice that speaks to us in unmistakable terms, that if we would succeed and cultivate the spirit, as well as adopt the form of eclecticism and progress, we must take high and independent ground, should abandon a pathology which we are every day declaring false by our practice; and at once ground our own upon what we believe to be true physiological science. We believe it can be clearly demonstrated upon physiological grounds that it is deleterious and empirical to resort to general bloodletting, in any case when other means of treatment are at command; and we also believe that the use of mercury in its various preparations can, from its chemical action and changes, and pathogenetic effects upon certain organs and functions, which must invariably take place when administered, be shown to be just as empirical and deleterious. time permit, we might read from a prize essay, delivered before the Conn. Med. Society (Allopathic), in May last, in which mercury was severely denounced, as having no specific direct. ness in its action as a hepatic remedy, and also condemned as a remedy unsafe and uncertain in its action. And further, extolling in flattering terms the podophyllin, as a remedy safe and certain in its action upon that organ. (See Prize Essay by Ives, M. D., before Conn. Med. Society, May, 1866.) We have thus spoken briefly of American Eclecticism,

its history, its utility; giving but a faint and general insight into the matter, by the brevity of our remarks, and feel entirely dissatisfied with the feeble exposition given, but in passing will briefly allude to its manifest destiny. And while we firmly predict for it a brilliant future, we should not lose sight of the great good we have already accomplished in modifying the severity of medical treatment as it has existed in this country, previous to the introduction of the system of Liberal Medicine. The most casual observer cannot fail to discover the less frequent employment of venesection, in that class of diseases in which it has been long regarded as indispensable. In Pleuritis, Pneumonitis, and a large class of other inflammatory diseases, in which it was formerly employed, it is seldom resorted to now. What has accomplished this great change? you will be likely to be told, "that diseases have changed," that constitutions and climates require different treatment now, that there is a different pathological action in those diseases now than existed in times past. The real cause I conceive to be, a change in public sentiment in these matters, demanding a modified treatment. And this is one of the great benefits resulting from agitation of thought in these matters, plainly demonstrating that "the agitation of thought is the beginning of wisdom." While we accede to all systems of medical practice some truths, and acknowledge among their advocates many men of distinguished scientific attainments, and while we would extend the "right hand of fellowship" to all who disenthral themselves from prejudice and medical exclusivism, who are willing to "seize upon truth wherever found," we have no sympathy with medical exclusiveness, no fellowship for those who claim for themselves all the skill, all the science; and virtually, by their course of action, say, we have attained the For we believe the science of summit of medical science. medicine is progressive; that truth should be gleaned from every system of practice, and from every available source; nor should the humane physician, who truly feels the responsibility of his position—called, as he is, to stay the progress of disease, to assuage the pangs of the suffering—fail to bring to his aid all the available means at his command, from whatever source they may be derived. When we remember that the mind of man, in the honest pursuit of knowledge, is never at rest; that it explores the broad fields of nature—descends into the depths of the sea—wings its way to the blue arch above, and seeks to find some new beauty in every star that twinkles there—how unreasonable, then, that we should stifle investigation, that we should encumber the wheels of progress, that we should become recluse in our researches, especially on a subject of such vital interest to the human family.

We have thus attempted feebly and briefly to portray some of the benefits resulting from the eclectic or progressive system of medical practice; have pointed out what we believe to be some of the great advantages arising from the adoption of a system of medicine acting in harmony with the laws of life and health. And in conclusion let me say, that a better day is dawning upon the medical world; already it cheers the heart, as its salutary light rolls back the dark clouds of error, and scatters the mists of superstition, inspiring the soul with hope, and stimulating it to new exertions. Medical reform is rapidly progressing. The long-established errors of old systems are already being crushed by its tri-Nor is its final triumph in any way continumphal march. gent. The past will bear witness to its eternal origin; the present is demonstrating its immutable vitality; and the future shall witness its victory!

PERISCOPE.

Injection of Acetic Acid in Cancerous Tumors.

THE novelty of the past two months is the injection of acetic acid in the substance of cancers in order to secure their removal by absorption. The plan is brought forward by Dr. Broadbent, a physician who is thought highly of in

London. It suggested itself to his mind in consequence of the known solvent powers of this acid upon cancer cells as seen under the microscope. Dr. Broadbent recommends that about forty drops of a mixture of one part of acetic acid with five or six parts of distilled water should be injected into the cancer; the point of the syringe being thrust (subcutaneously) into different parts of its substance during the operation, so that the agent is well disseminated through it. The injection is repeated at intervals, varying from six to ten days or longer according to its effects. The method is now being extensively tried, and many cases are reported in which large cancers have been completely and almost painlessly removed. Its true value can by no means be pronounced upon at present. — Foreign Correspond. Southern Journal Medical Science.

To make Beef-Tea Nutritious.

Let the cook understand that the virtue of beef-tea is to contain all the contents and flavor of lean beef in a dilute form; and its vices are to be sticky and strong, and to set in too a hard jelly when cold. When she understands this, let her take half a pound of fresh-killed beef for every pint of tea she wants, and carefully remove all fat, sinew, veins and Let it be cut up into pieces under an inch square, and set to soak for twelve hours in one-third of the water required Then let it be taken out and simmered to be made into tea. for three hours in the remaining two-thirds of the water, the quantity lost by evaporation being replaced from time to time. The boiling liquor is then to be poured on the cold liquor in which the meat was soaked. The solid meat is to be dried, pounded in a mortar, and minced so as to cut up all strings in it, and mixed with the liquid. When the beef-tea is made daily, it is convenient to use one day's boiled meat for the next day's tea, as thus it has time to dry and is easiest pounded. Some persons find it more palatable for a clove of garlic being rubbed on a spoon with which the whole is stirred.—" The Indigestions," by Dr. Thomas King Chambers.

Ventilation for Invalids.

Dr. Thomas Inman (London Medical Mirror) thus alludes to home ventilation: "When speaking of airiness, I do not mean individuals to encourage draughts of cold air about their persons, nor can I recommend them to do as a medical friend is said to do, viz. open the windows of the bed-room at night to get the fresh country air, which the town smoke vitiates during the day, so as to make it too impure for use. There may be differences of opinion on the subject amongst those who observe little; but amongst those who do, the belief is entertained that warm air moderately impure (as in a closed bed-room where two or more are sleeping), is less noxious to the invalid and those whose health is shaky, than is cold air and absolute purity. The purity does not counter-balance the effect of the chill."

Health and Holiness in Cincinnati.—A Lecture delivered on Sunday Evening, March 24, 1867, at the Church of the Redeemer by the Minister of the Church—Rev. A. D. Mayo.

WE copy the closing remarks of this able address as reported in the Cincinnati Daily Commercial, March the 25th, 1867.

It is to be hoped that the Sanitary Board will be benefited by the suggestions.—(Ed. R.) *

"The population of Cincinnati last year, within municipal limits, was probably 210,000; of which 6,000—one in thirty-five of us all—were removed by death.

"Of this number at leat 2,000 persons died of cholera during three months of summer and early autumn. Not less than 4,500 cases of cholera were reported to the Board of Health, of which nearly half were fatal. It is estimated that twenty per cent. of those who recovered, were left with permanently impaired health. Two-thirds of those who died were able-bodied men and women.

"We have no heart to speak of the private sorrow, the widespread bereavement and spiritual suffering involved in such a

history. Neither can we estimate the moral loss to our community from such a cause. It is true that for every one who passed away another may have come. Our streets are alive with an increasing population; the life of the city runs with greater volume in deepening channels; and only by going, as the physicians and the clergymen are accustomed, from house to house, can we realize how many sacred places are vacant, and how many beloved faces will smile no more on earth. But the stern figures remain, each like a warning finger pointing to our physical transgressions. We cannot burden Providence with the odium of such wholesale slaughter, until we have turned from the error of our crooked physical ways to walk in the straight paths which lead to bodily health and life. It is not half so strange that one of every thirty-five of our population died last year, as that not one in a thousand of our people have been warned by this event, or are asking how, at home, or as citizens, they can avert the same result in the present year.

"The doctors have already raised a timely note of warning, and we are within two months of the summer heats. We have not an hour to lose if we would prepare our city for what is probably before it. It is high time that every man set his house in order, and kept it in cleanliness to await the foe. But the mass of our people will not do this, and in the name of humanity we demand from our Legislature a law strong enough for our protection. We are behind no man in our devotion to human rights; but no man, be he millionnaire or beggar, has the right to poison me by any nuisance, however dear such abomination may be to himself. Only the most stringent law can penetrate to the depths of this uncleanness and overcome the selfishness that imperils Do not be afraid, honorable gentlemen at Columbus, to make your medicine too strong. Our sins are great; our disease is vital. Give us thorough work; put into our hands a weapon with which we can make a real onset upon these fortified realms of death. And when our laws are enacted, let the solid people of Cincinnati close up, a thousand deep, around our City Government and demand their

uttermost enforcement. And let the swift wrath of this people strike every falteriny politician or timid official who hesitates an instant in this imperative duty.

"A hundred thousand dollars, perhaps fifty thousand dollars, wisely and immediately expended, with the vigorous and intelligent co-operation of that portion of our people who have a character to maintain, will accomplish all that can now be done to avert the imminent danger. Fifty thousand dollars is a great deal of money; but let us glance at a little bill which our people have been called to pay during the past year.

People of Cincinnati,	
To THE CHOLERA,	Dr.
1. To lost labor of 1,500 laboring people, at \$2 per day, 800 days	\$90,00 0
2. Public appropriation for health last summer	4 0,000
3. Expense of medical attendance on 4,500 cholera patients, at	
\$10 each	45,0 00
4. Expense of burying 2,000 people, \$20 each	40,000
5. Expense of private cleaning in the city, and cost of absence	
from fear of disease, estimated at \$1 for each inhabitant	210,000
6. Loss of trade, estimated by reliable business men, from this	
cause	1,000,000
7. General derangement of business in the city and suburbs,	
consequent thereon	500,000
Amount in full\$1	,925,000

"In round numbers, we paid the sum of \$2,000,000 last year to this invader of our peace. This may be an overestimate. But we can make all reasonable discount, and still understand that the way to save our money leads along the same path by which we can save our lives.

"If we are told that God only can give or take away our life, we answer, God co-operates with man in every reasonable effort to elevate the physical and spiritual health of his children. We adore his loving Providence, whether it keeps us in this world or bears us to another. But we have no fear that our uttermost obedience to his beautiful laws of our being, will embarrass the Holy Spirit in our salvation. We are living in perpetual violation of the wise and good ordi-

nances of our Heavenly Father. Our habitual sins against our bodily sanctity can only be outgrown by patient labor and a religious determination to learn our duty and obey it. But our more flagrant public abuses can be driven out of existence by the concentrated public opinion of those who are outraged by their existence. During the last fifty years 400,000 lives have probably been saved in Europe by vaccination alone. There is no evidence of the displeasure of Providence over this great physical salvation in the Old World. And if we, the people of Cincinnati, will mend our ways, and make our city the healthiest of great American towns, we may reasonably hope that with increasing health will come a nobler opportunity for that holiness which is only the perfect wholeness of body and soul in man, the wondrous, immortal child of God."

Empiricism vs. Rationalism, by Edward G. Loring, M. D., Baltimore, Md.

STRANGE as it may seem, physicians of the present day, as a class, practise better than they preach. The reason of this apparent anomaly is, that modern medical observation and research have discovered certain laws of nature, and certain actions of drugs, which cannot be explained. Practice has consequently outrun theory, and while the physician is content with rapidly gathering in and making use of these results, medical expounders are often delayed by searching after the reason, which they think it their duty to account for, and in doing this they are further retarded by having, in order to make themselves intelligible, to make use of antiquated terms, which modern science has either rendered inadequate or even meaningless. Since, too, the mechanical and physical means of examining into nature have been carried to such a degree of perfection, it is difficult for a writer to keep pace, through the medium of the press, with the march of science. Before the work appears, some special research has cut off, in their prime, the author's elaborate theories, while an appended foot-note, in the finest print, has to serve, like a graceful epitaph, as an acknowledgment of decease and an appeal for mercy.

On the other hand, this faith on the part of the practitioner is certainly, whatever it may appear at the first sight, a graceful concession on the part of science to nature—an acknowledgment of ignorance, which wisdom in reality alone could afford to make. It is, in fact, a mild triumph of "empiricism" over the once vaunted and scholastic "rationalism" which medical writers and lecturers are usually the last to admit or take advantage of.—Boston Med. and Surg. Journal.

Cannabis Indica as an Antispasmodic, by Geo. F. Salmon, M. D., New Lebanon, N. Y.

March 23, 1866. I was called to see C. W. H., aged 65. I found him suffering from a very severe attack of typhoid pneumonia. Tonics, stimulants, and expectorants were prescribed. The case progressed favorably until the ninth or tenth day, when the vital powers began to show a greater disposition to sink, and the following more marked typhoid symptoms were developed; typhus apthoideus of the pharynx and fauces, accompanied with great exhaustion, a feeble pulse, and very severe singultus.

I speak of the above remedy as an antispasmodic, for the relief of the latter symptom. This distressing and extremely prostrating feature of the case continued, almost without cessation, for five days and nights. Ether, chloroform, musk, castor, and assafætida were employed. In connection with these a blister was applied to the epigastrium. Also a bandage around the diaphragm.

Dr. C. was now called in consultation, who thought the hiccough was caused by the accumulation of carbonic acid gas in the intestines. He suggested that an enema of chloride of soda should be given the patient. This was administered without producing the least perceptible effect. I was now induced to make a trial of Cannabis Indica. Tilden's extract was ordered to be given the patient in eight-drop

doses, every hour. The hiccough soon subsided, but returned during the night. Again the hemp was administered, and again the symptoms were discussed and kept in subjection by the use of this remedy. Patient made a good recovery.

I have used the hemp to prevent the paroxysms of asthma, with good success; and have found it a valuable agent in hysteria, and in the treatment of females, while undergoing local treatment, to allay great nervous irritability of the system, produced by the various forms of uterine diseases. I consider Cannabis Indica one of the most serviceable agents in the Materia Medica. It is deserving of more credit than it has received.—Journal of Mat. Med.

EDITORIAL.

The Eclectic Medical Review.

With the present number closes the first year of the existence of the American Eclectic Medical Review. Each of its numbers from the first has been prepared with the utmost care, and we think we can truthfully say that it stands at the head of the Medical Journals of the country, for the interesting and valuable character of its articles, the elegance and style of its typography and make up, and for its general ability and tone. Its circulation has reached the paying point, and we hope to carry it forward until it shall become a classic and a landmark to the whole American people, leading them from the disastrous and pernicious dogmas and practice which have poisoned to universal ill health nearly every man, woman and child of the present generation in this country.

The Review will continue to be the stanch advocate of pure Eclecticism, and will endeavor to be just and generous where generosity would not be a crime against the health of the people. To our colaborators on the Review, we owe much of its success and high character. We have seen no reason to mention any discourtesy on the part of our editorial brethren and have sought to foster a spirit of union and good fellowship among the practitioners and journals of our school.

This policy will be rigidly adhered to in the future. The Review for the coming year will be one of the best mediums for professional and general advertising among the journals of the class to which it belongs, and we have every reason to look forward with hope and confidence in regard to its future well-being and usefulness.

We would be pleased to have all the present subscribers renew their subscriptions immediately; this will enable us to form some idea of the size of the edition to print. We hope the Eclectic Medical Profession will aid in extending its circulation. We feel assured that its merits fully justify an appeal for a large and generous support.

New York State Eclectic Medical Society.

This important medical association will hold its annual meeting June 14, at Saratoga, this year. This Society, now in the fifth year of its existence, is organized under a special charter, with every advantage ever embodied in a charter for such a purpose. It has a large and constantly increasing membership from all parts of the State, and the annual meeting at Saratoga will be more important than any that have preceded it, as many questions bearing upon the future development and systematized organization of effort, will be considered and decided upon at this meeting. If Eclecticism is to be in the future a system to be respected and to wield efficient powers of aggression and defence against professional intolerance and malpractice, the members of the Eclectic medical profession must subordinate merely selfish individual aims to a combined and united policy and plan of action. Hereafter, the annual meetings of the Society should be held at Albany, during the session of the Legislature, so that the power of Eclecticism may be directly felt upon the legislation calculated to advance its interests, and to prevent such underhanded and villainous attempts as have more than once been attempted, and sometimes with success, to deprive us of our just rights. We have not been disappointed in our estimate of the intolerance, unfairness, and utterly unmanly character of allopathic opposition to any attempt to secure for Eclecticism the legislative aid and recognition, even for its strictly free benevolent institutions, to which it is entitled.

We sincerely hope that the attendance will be large and general from all parts of the State, as some important propositions will be submitted in regard to the Eclectic Medical College of the City of New York, and to the best methods of advancing our cause. Several of the Trustees of the College will be present at the meeting, for the purpose of ascertaining the amount and character of support the institution may reasonably look for from the State Eclectic Medical Society.

The Second Session of the Eclectic Medical College of the City of New York.

The annual announcement for 1867 of the Eclectic Medical College of the City of New York, which commences October 15 with a preliminary session of two weeks, will appear very soon and be widely circulated. There is every prospect that the second session will be very largely attended from all parts of the country. New York city beyond all places on this continent stands preëminent for its medical educational facilities. Wishing success to all Eclectic medical schools, we shall labor for the well-being of the Eclectic Medical College of the City of New York, and would cordially invite the attention of practitioners having students in their offices, and of all desirous of entering the medical profession to come up, and fully understand what we propose to do.

Annual meeting of Eclectic Medical Societies.

THE seventh annual meeting of the Massachusetts Eclectic Medical Society, will be held at the Revere House, Boston, June 6th, 1867.

The Eclectic Medical Society of the State of Vermont holds its annual meeting at Montpelier, June 6th, 1867.

The Eclectic Medical Society of the State of Maine will hold its annual meeting at Portland, June 25th, 1867.

The State Eclectic Medical Association of Indiana holds its annual meeting on the 4th and 5th of June, at Indianapolis.

The State Eclectic Medical Society of Ohio holds its annual meeting at Lebanon in that State, commencing May 29th. All these societies are large and influential, and we should be glad to meet with them and possibly may do so.

The New Volume.

THERE will be in each number of the coming volume of the Review, from the pen of Prof. Robert S. Newton, one of a series of surgical papers, with report of cases and clinical remarks.

There will also be in each number a paper from the pen of the late Prof. W. Byrd Powell. We have quite a number of his most able and valuable essays, many of which have never been published, and as his views and doctrines of the Human Temperaments, the Life Line, Incompatible Marriages, etc., are attracting universal attention and a cordial recognition and adoption by the more progressive, liberal, and enlightened portion of the medical profession, they cannot fail to prove of peculiar interest and value to our readers.

The Cycloid Piano at the Exposition Universelle.

This beautiful and unique instrument, which is entirely unequalled in its way, seems to be studiously ignored by the apparently bought up correspondents employed to make their descriptions of the great Exposition, the mere framework for the business axes they are bribed or coaxed to grind in the newspapers, at the expense of a too often gulled public. One of these scribblers announces a decision in favor of Mr. S. by the eminent musical jury; this is the only point at which any person is mentioned in connection with pianos; another states that the decision is not yet made; another, after spreading out half a dozen columns, mentions several names and finally ends in a grand splurge over the same Mr. S., who, he says, is represented by seven pianos; while another writer says it is but five; still another has it that the contest is narrowed down between Mr. C. and Mr. S., remarking incidentally, that there are only three American exhibitors of pianos. Why did not the writer mention the third exhibitor, will be asked by many; can it be that the answer is, the writers were not paid to do so, having been bought up to aid in overslaughing all except fish too big to be ignored. The public should look with the greatest distrust upon these dispassionate and unbiased fulminations which will be made to flood the country during the coming season, and which will be the staple of a multitude of advertisements and "Bohemian puffs." Whoever wishes to buy a compact and elegant piano of great power, admirable quality of tone, and of permanent durability, will find it in the Cycloid piano made by Lindeman &

Sons, the third of the American exhibitors at the World's fair in Paris—where there can be but little question that they will be deemed entitled to a high award for their truly admirable instrument—which has fully the power of the best semi-grand with but about two-thirds the size, a much more elegant and tasteful shape, and has the advantage of resting on three legs; while from its peculiar structure it is much more solid, and remains longer in tune than any other piano whatever.

The Weed Sewing Machine.

This is one of the first-class sewing machines, which has been known less extensively to the sewing public than its very great practical merits deserve. The new family machine, which is just now for the first time being introduced to the public, is more perfectly finished, and fully equal to any shuttle machine, now before the public, so far as we have seen and examined, and we believe we have seen and examined all of the various sewing machines advertised and unadvertised, that can lay any claim to special merit. machine is finished in every part in the most conscientious and effective manner, its simplicity, durability, and perfection of mechanical arrangement, place it in the front rank, and in several particulars it is entirely unexcelled. It is more nearly noiseless than any other shuttle machine. Its arrangment for taking up the thread is durable, and exceedingly ingenious. Its tension is uniform and perfect; it will do fine stitching more perfectly than any shuttle machine we have ever And it is capable of every variety of work required in a family and for ordinary branches of tailoring, and compares with the lumbering, imperfectly finished Singer machines in style and efficiency more than favorably. While its delicacy of finish is not excelled by the finest Wheeler and Wilson machines—and this is the very highest praise. It has few parts; its use is more easily learned, and it is more free from practical defects affecting work, than any other shuttle machine in existence, never oiling or soiling the most delicate. We speak more immediately of the new family machine. This new Weed candidate for favor is no "Pig Weed" we can conscientiously assure all who wish to purchase the very best family sewing machine making the shuttle lock-stitch, to be found anywhere. The Weed machines are manufactured at Hartford, Conn., and are turned out at the rate of about 2,400 a month, by a system of the most perfect

and ingenious machinery yet devised for making shuttle sewing The price of the new Weed machine is the same as that machines. of other first-class family machines—there are several heavy manufacturing styles of the Weed machine. The lightness and ease with which the new Family machine is operated will make it specially valuable to ladies who are obliged to sew for their families. great drawback of many sewing machines is the injury they do to the health of ladies of feeble constitution, and burthened with the cares of the family—an evil that has become very apparent to the observant medical man. It is one of the attractions of the American department at the Exposition Universelle at Paris, and will undoubtedly become the most popular and enduring of existing shuttle sewing machines, so soon as it is properly placed before the public, and the very heavy patent tax of \$7.00 on each machine shall die out by limitation of the undeserved monopoly rights of the Sewing The new offices and sales-room are on the Machine Combination. site of the old St. Thomas Church, corner of Houston and Broadway, with Maillard's renowned restaurant sandwiched between them, and the magnificent establishment of Wheeler and Wilson. Here on a single block are to be found the concentrated perfection of art in mechanism as developed in the sewing machine. A beautiful display of practical samples of workmanship of the new Weed Family machine are being prepared for examination in the show cases of the establishments of the company in this country, and for those now organized in London and Paris.

REVIEWS AND BIBLIOGRAPHICAL NOTICES.

A TREATISE ON THE PRINCIPLES AND PRACTICE OF MEDICINE, DESIGNED FOR THE USE OF PRACTITIONERS AND STUDENTS OF MEDICINE, BY AUSTIN FLINT, M. D., Professor of the Principles and Practice of Medicine in the Bellevue Hospital Medical College; in the Long Island College Hospital, etc. Second edition revised and enlarged. Pages 967. Handsome extra cloth, \$6,50; or strongly bound leather, with raised bands, \$7,50. Henry C. Lea, Publisher, Philadelphia.

The speedy exhaustion of the first edition of this work has called for another, which the author has supplied, enlarged by the description of three diseases not found in the first; also by additional considerations on cholera. The general arrrangement of the contents is the same as before, into two parts; Part 1st, treating of the Principles of Medicine, or general Pathology, and Part 2d, of the Practice of Medicine or Special Pathology. Under the former, he considers Anatomical Change in the Solid

parts of the body; Morbid Conditions of the Blood; Etiology; and Prophylaxis or general Therapeutics. There are many things in the entire work that are excellent—in fact it is full of valuable matter, well elaborated. Although the author holds to some as we think erroneous opinions, for instance those on Carcinoma, he holding that a primary cancer involves an antecedent or underlying unknown special pathological condition called a cachexia. He however quotes the opinions of Robin and Virchow, who regard the cancer-cells as resulting from a deformation of epithelium or other normal anatomical elements, which at the same time are multiplied to a greater or less extent. This is essentially the view that we hold, and that the constitutional discrasia comes afterward. The Author in his effort to condense within circumscribed limits much matter of great and primary importance, has succeeded admirably, at the same time he cannot be accused of destroying the interest in the subject

handled by his manner of elucidating it.

In part 2d he treats each particular disease in a clear and concise manner giving a lucid description of its anatomical characters, pathological condition, causation, diagnosis, prognosis, and treatment. the treatment of disease he has divested himself of the antiquated doctrines found in such standard works as Wood's and Watson's practice, which have always been quoted as law—by some; and pretty generally discards mercury and the lancet, although he does not fully. For instance, in bronchitis, he says of Blood-letting: "It should enter into the treatment of a certain proportion of cases, provided other and more conservative means for the same ends are not available,"—evidently admitting that other means can and do succeed. "The evils of blood-letting arise from its spoliative effect upon the blood," etc. Under the same head, a little further on, he says, referring to the doctrine of a change of type in disease, owing to a notable change in the human constitution: "This opinion seems to me not well founded. After a professional experience extending beyond the period just named, (25 years,) I do not hesitate to express a conviction, that acute inflammations, at the present day, are essentially the same that they were twenty-five years ago, and that antiphlogistic measures were no more appropriate then—than now." the treatment of Pneumonitis, he is very guarded in advising the use of blood-letting, and condemns it entirely in all but the first stage of plethoric and robust cases. He might by a little more boldness, have condemned it altogether, and done without it, as we do in all cases. He strongly condemns Tartar Emetic and mercury in the second stage, and says that for many years he has discontinued their use. He opposes the use of mercury in dysentery, and says that "chemical observation fails to furnish evidence of any curative influence to be derived from mercury." In the section on acute Hepatitis, the author makes this remark,—"but the doctrine so long held, that mercury increases the secretion of bile, is to say the least, open to much distrust,"—which we think is a favorable indication, that at some no distant day, the allopathic school will discard it altogether. He does not even suggest it in the treatment of intermittent, remittent and yellow fevers, but distinctly opposes the use of both mercury and blood-letting. Now while the Doctor thus deprives his pupils and the profession (allopathic) of their main resource as a chologogue, I mean mercury, he gives them nothing as a substitute. Certainly he uses something. If not and he is anxiously seeking for something, we can recommend an agent which is being largely used by the profession all over the country, Podophyllin, the active principle of the May Apple —which will fulfil all indications. It is strange that in his researches into medical literature, he should have so neglected that of his own country, so much as not to know of the use of many valuable agents, concerning the use of which he is entirely silent. While we give him great credit for the great work he has accomplished, we suggest that if another edition be called for, he supply this remarkable deficiency in the practical part of it. It is printed on good paper, in readable type, strongly bound in leather, and well worthy a careful and studious perusal.

NEWS AND MISCELLANY.

ECLECTIC MEDICAL SOCIETY, OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK.

THE Fifth Annual Meeting of the Eclectic Medical Society of the State of New York will be held on the Second Wednesday (12th) of June,

1867, at 10 o'clock, A. M., at St. Nicholas Hall, Saratoga Springs.

The Annual Address will be given by Prof. Edwin Freeman, M. D. Essays will be read, and Papers presented by the different Committees appointed at the last Annual Meeting, and Officers will be elected for the ensuing year. Delegates are expected to be present from other State Societies and participate in the proceedings. It is hoped all members will be punctual in attendance, as business of interest and importance to all will be transacted. It is expected that the Transactions of the Society, printed by the Legislature of the State, will be ready by that time to be delivered to the Members. Our Society is growing in numbers and importance, and as we now enjoy the same legal privileges with those of any other Medical Society in the State, it is desirable that we present, as far as may be, a full gathering of all our Brethren in Council; for, as Eclectics, we believe our practice based upon the principles of Truth, and we should show to the world that we feel interest enough in our system to come together at least once in a year, to further the objects of those principles which we believe have in view the most momentous interests of mankind.

Respectfully,

WM. W. HADLEY, M. D., Secretary.

546 Broadway, New York.

ABSTRACT FROM BRAITHWAITE'S RETROSPECT.

CITRIC, ACETIC AND CARBOLIC ACIDS.—Citric, acetic, and carbolic acids, when applied in a diluted state to cancerous tumors, have a powerful effect in removing pain. The carbolic acid has a powerful effect in correcting the offensive fector of cancerous discharges. All three have a solvent effect on cancerous tissue, the citric acid least, the acetic acid next in degree, and the carbolic acid most. When a weak solution of carbolic acid is applied to cancer cells under the microscope, they are dissolved and the nucleus even disappears almost entirely. In a case of mammary tumor, to which it was applied, the thick, serrated, and everted edges disappeared, and cicatrization of many of the sores occurred. The following is the best formula:—Acidi carbolici 3 iss.; spiritûs vini rectificati § j.; aquæ ad fbij. (Dr. J. Barclay.)

Gout.—Inhalation of Oxygen.—The formation of urea instead of

uric acid may be determined by supplying oxygen. Oxygen may be directly inhaled, or the binoxide of hydrogen exhibited in one-drachm doses diluted in about two ounces of water. This has a marked influence on the biliary secretion, which it increases in quantity and improves in quality, often producing excessive biliary dejections, thus relieving congested livers and secondary bronchial congestion. The inhalation of a mixture of oxygen and air, in the proportion of one to four, pretty uniformly clears the urine of lithates. (Dr. R. H. Goolden.)

TYPHOID FEVER.—The most successful plan of treatment of typhoid fever (only one case in forty proving fatal) is the following: Strong beef tea and milk every two hours, together fourteen pints every twenty-four hours, and twenty drops of dilute nitro-muriatic acid every two hours. The late Dr. Henderson, of Shanghai, stated that by its adoption the mortality from continued fever was diminished from 28 per cent. to 7

per cent. (Dr. T. K. Chambers.)

TYPHUS FEVER.—Amount of Urea Excreted.—During the second week of typhus fever the quantity of urea excreted daily is decidedly below the standard of health, notwithstanding the presence of a state of high fever. This is contrary to the generally received doctrine that fever consists essentially in an increased metamorphosis of tissue. The intensity of the head symptoms coincides with the lowest urea excretion, and their improvement coincides with or follows on an increase in that secretion.

Chorea.—Calabar Bean.—The calabar bean promises to be an effectual remedy for chorea. It should be given in half-drachm doses of the tincture (3 j. of the bean to 3 i. spirits of wine) three times a day, in water, and gradually increased if necessary. In one case which had gained no ground for more than two months, this plan of treatment produced most marked improvement in a fortnight, and cure in four weeks. In some cases no benefit seems to follow its use, but this may be said of any medicine.

Brownde of Ammonium.—It is of the greatest importance to procure sleep in patients attacked with a morbid increase of the reflex excitability. In cases in which there is sleeplessness owing to some cause of cerebral excitement, sleep is almost invariably induced by giving to adults a dose of thirty grains of bromide of ammonium a quarter of an hour before the last meal, and a second dose of from thirty to fifty grains at bedtime. (Dr. C. E. Brown-Séquard.)

LUMBAGO.—Ether Spray.—If there is no gouty or rheumatic condition, instant relief is sometimes attainable by the use of Richardson's ether spray. (Mr. J. B. Walker, Lancet, March 17, 1866, p. 299.)

PAIN.—Subcutaneous Injection of Morphia and Atropine.—Inject together half a grain of the sulphate of morphia with one-sixtieth of a grain of sulphate of atropine, and the good effects of both against pain are obtained, without the bad effects. (Dr. C. E. Brown-Séquard.)

Spine.—Effects of Cold and Heat to the.—Cold and heat applied to the spine produce definite and constant effects, exactly the opposite of one another. Ice applied to the spine increases the general circulation, stops the cramp of voluntary and involuntary muscles, proves an effective remedy in epilepsy and other convulsive affections, cures sea-sickness, restrains the sickness of pregnancy, arrests diarrhæa, recovers patients from the cold stage of cholera, and finally promotes menstruation. On the other hand heat along the spine lessens the general circulation, overcomes congestion in all parts of the body, lessens fever, restrains hemorrhage, and lessons or arrests the menstrual flow. (Dr. J. Chapman.)

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Congestion.—Internal Use of Chloroform.—Chloroform given by the stomach and rectum does not produce any symptoms of anæsthesia, but has the effect of equalizing the circulation of the blood and so relieving congestion. It may be thus used in all cases of congestion whether sthenic or asthenic. (Dr. Merril.)

HEMORRHAGE FROM WOUNDS OF THE HAND.—In cases of hemorrhage from the hand occurring from several points simultaneously, flex the forearm forcibly upon the arm, and the hemorrhage will cease, owing to the acute angle at which the radial and ulnar arteries are placed. (Mr.

J. Hilton.)

DIPHTHERIA.—Hyposulphites.—The incipient exudation of diphtheria may frequently be removed in forty-eight hours by the application twice a day of a strong solution of hyposulphite of soda, viz.: 3 iij of the hyposulphite, glycerine 3 ij., with 3 vj. of water. A weak gargle may

be used every hour. (Mr. J. C. Maynard.)

Cholerato Diarrhea.—When abruptly checked by opium, cholerato diarrhea often returns immediately the effects of the opium passes off, the patient meanwhile having a hot skin, quick pulse, and headache, or the patient may pass at once into the stage of collapse. It should be treated by emetics, castor oil, or some other mild laxative, and cold water; not one case out of a large number so treated passed into the stage of collapse. The effect of the opium is highly prejudicial, for it arrests the elimination of the poison through the mucous membrane of

the bowels. (Dr. Johnson, British Medical Journal.)

Chronic Enlargement of the Liver.—Mercury is useless and indeed actually injurious in cases of chronic enlargement of the liver, such as occurs amongst Europeans in the East Indies. The nitro-muriatic acid bath is of great use. An ounce and a half of strong acid must be added to each gallon of water to form a bath. The patient before going into the bath should be covered over with blankets until a gentle perspiration is induced, and when in the bath a covering blanket should be drawn over the head and shoulders to confine the steam and enable the patient to inspire it. The external application of acids acts far more quickly and surely than their administration by the mouth. Even in irremediable cases the bath proves useful in cleaning the tongue, improving the appetite, abating thirst, and in many cases in retarding the progress of disease. It is necessary that the bath be made of wood, and it must be no larger than is absolutely needful to contain the person. When the patient is in so weakened a condition as to be unable to bear the immersion or sponging, a swathe dampened in the solution must be worn round the body and covered with oiled silk. This may be continued for any length of time, and great advantage is often the result. Ranald Martin.)

TANIA.—Turpentine.—Oil of turpentine, combined with castor oil, three drachms of each, is a better remedy for tenia than oil of male-

fern. (Dr. Headland.)

BILE IN THE URINE.—Detection by Chloroform.—Place in the test-tube forty or fifty grammes of the urine to be examined, and add to it four or five grammes of chloroform, and then shake the mixture. If the urine contains bile it immediately assumes a fine yellow color, and on allowing it to rest the chloroform falls to the bottom of the tube, drawing with it the fatty matter of the urine colored by the yellow biliary substance. (M. Ounisset.)

Polydipsia—(Diabetes Insipidus.)—Valerian administered in large and rapidly increasing doses, is a most serviceable remedy in diabetes insipidus. A case is related in which the specific gravity of the urine

rapidly rose from 1,000 to 1,006 under large doses of valerian in powder. (Dr. Reith.)

Splints.—Gutta-Percha.—No matter in what form the gutta-percha is, nor in how many small threads or large balls, place it in a vessel of water, and boil it till it is perfectly softened throughout; now collect it into one ball; dip it into cold water to enable it to be handled without burning, and knead it into a uniform mass with the hands. To do this, if it is very good and tough, will require some strength, and also warming two or three times; but eventually it will form a uniform plastic mass not much harder than stiff putty. When in this state, place it on any flat surface which is wet, and with a roller—a common glass rollingpin dipped in water is the best—roll it into a sheet of the desired thickness, let the roller slide upon it in all directions, and continue this action till the surface is uniform; it will now be fit for cutting into shape. This can readily be done, either when hot or cold, with a pair of scissors, and no force is required to mould it into the form of splint required, the only precaution requisite being to hold it steadily in that shape till it is cold; after which it will not alter, unless again made hot. It may sometimes be requisite to join two pieces of gutta-percha together. This can readily be done by warming the two surfaces to be united by dry heat, with a hot iron, not burning, but merely softening the surface. Two such hot, dry, soft, clean surfaces will unite most perfectly when brought into contact with each other, if held together till they are cold. It may sometimes also be useful to know how two pieces of this material may be moulded on to each other without sticking. If one be cold and the other hot, they will not unite, especially if the cold surface be anointed with soap-suds. (Mr. E. Truman.)

Leather-Felt Splints.—These simple and admirable splints consist of stout felt, lined on one side with wash-leather. All that is necessary for their application is to place a splint (with the leather side downwards) upon a table, then paint the felt side with a liquid which is supplied by the inventor (Mr. J. G. Hides, of Mortimer-street), then apply the splints to the injured limb, and bandage with an ordinary roller, leaving a little interval between each turn of the bandage. The splint hardens like a piece of wood in about thirty-five minutes. These splints are extremely light, and are capable of adaptation to any part without padding. They are about the same price as wood splints, and can be used again and again by merely painting the felt side afresh with a weaker solution of

the liquid. (p. 180.)

ERYSIPELAS.— Warm versus Cold Applications.—Never use cold applications in cases of erysipelas. Warm fomentations medicated with poppy or hemlock should be used. The vitality of the part in which erysip-

elas occurs is always lowered. (Mr. J. Hilton.)

Wounds.—Chloride of Zine Lotion.—The discharge from a wound, whether the result of accident or surgical operation, usually decomposes whenever covered for even a few hours, as evidenced by the peculiar sickly smell. If, however, the wound is well bathed with a lotion of twenty grains of chloride of zine to the ounce of water, this is prevented, and the wound will frequently heal by the first intention, without swelling, pain, or discoloration. This plan has been tried in a variety of operations, the removal of tumors, amputations, even with extensive and thin flaps, operations about the rectum, involving the mucous membrane, and in the perineum. In many cases the wounds have healed in twenty-four hours, without fulness or swelling, and leaving a line of cicatrix which after a short time could hardly be seen or felt. (Mr. C. de Morgan.)

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Fundus Oculi.—To Examine without the Mirror of Opthalmoscope.— Place the lamp on a table in a darkened room and let the patient sit on a chair two or three feet from the table, and facing the light. If the pupil is well dilated with atropine the fundus is seen to be illuminated, the surgeon sitting with his back to the light. A lens of about two inches focus is necessary to see the details of the posterior internal surface of the eye. (Dr. Roseburgh.)

Chlorosis.—Iron.—Iron is useful in chlorosis only because of a peculiar influence which causes the food to be transformed more easily into blood. Other metals which are not normal constituents of blood globules, such as manganese and silver, will sometimes act even better than iron. There is immense value in a purely hygienic means in the

treatment of chlorosis. (Dr. Brown-Séquard.)

HEMORRHAGE AFTER LABOR.—Injection of the Uterus with Perchloride of Iron.—After clearing out the uterine cavity of placental remains and clots, inject a solution of perchloride of iron into the uterus. (Dr. R. Barnes.)

Ovarian Tumors.—Chlorate of Potash.—Four cases of ovarian disease are related in which the internal administration of chlorate of potash produced a most marked effect in causing lessening of the tumor; two were quite cured, the tumor altogether disappearing. A dessert-spoonful of a saturated solution of the salt was given thrice a day. (Mr. W. Craig.)

Chloroform.—In cases of threatened mischief during the administration of chloroform, nothing does more good than pulling forward the tongue, whereby the epiglottis is likewise pulled forward and air admitted into the larynx. Chloroform should never be given to a patient in the sitting posture, or fatal fainting may ensue. (Prof. Spence, Dr. Gillespie, Edinburgh Medical Journal, March, 1866.)

Milk.—To Prevent its turning Sour.—Add to each gallon of milk a teaspoonful of a saturated solution of sulphite of soda. Even in hot weather the milk will remain sweet for a week or ten days, and the sul-

phite added is quite imperceptible. (Dr. J. Scoffern.)

Purification of Water.—Black oxide of iron possesses a remarkable power of separating the organic impurities from water. The best way of preparing it for this purpose is by heating together hæmatite, or red oxide of iron ore, with sawdust. The oxide as made by this process contains a small percentage of carbon, which, however, renders the substance harder and less brittle. If river water containing much organic impurity be made to percolate a layer of this substance a few inches thick, it will lose almost all organic impurity, and be perfectly pure both to taste and smell. It is an admirable substance to use in filters, and, moreover, does not lose its power in the least by time. (Mr. Thomas Spencer, Med. Times and Gazette, April 28, 1866.)

SMALL-Pox in London.—Small-pox is prevailing to a frightful extent in London. Altogether there have been four hundred and sixty-two lives lost by this one disease in the space of thirteen weeks—an aggregate which may without exaggeration be spoken of as really alarming. It is most sad to reflect on the ignorant carelessness or the reckless folly of those who not only endanger the lives of their children and of themselves, but also jeopardize the lives of their neighbors and of the public generally, by neglect of the simple means available for reducing the baneful power of small-pox to a nullity. It is important that it should be known, moreover, that throughout the country—in large towns and rural districts alike—this loathsome and deadly malady is spreading, as well as in London.—Lancet.

Warning against the Simultaneous Prescription of Chlorate of Potash and Iodide of Potassium.—This has great importance; since in syphilitic and other affections these drugs are often combined. But M. Vee has demonstrated the danger of such practice by showing that the chlorate of potash gives up its oxygen, which forms with the iodide of potassium an *iodate*, whose toxic properties have been recently demonstrated by Melsen.—Gazette Médicale.

CHANGES IN THE FACULTY OF PARIS.—The vacant chairs in the Faculty of Medicine of Paris have been filled as follows:—Professor of General Pathology and Therapeutics, Lassaigne; Professor of Pathological Anatomy, Vulpian; Professor of Therapeutics and Materia Medica, See; Professor of External Pathology, Broca; Professor of Internal Pathology, Oxenfeld; Professor of Internal Pathology, Hardy; Adjunct-Professor to the same chair, Raynaud. The resignation of Nelaton is spoken of.

Cholera Prize of Twenty Thousand Dollars.—One hundred and ten works were sent this year to the Imperial Academy of Sciences of France for competition. The report is highly interesting, and gives a good idea as to the manner in which cholera has been studied. The full prize was not awarded; but various amounts have been granted to Messrs. Legros and Goujon for their experimental researches; to M. Thiersch for his experiments on 104 mice with choleraic dejections; to M. Baudrimont for his atmospheric researches bearing upon cholera; to M. Worms for his essay on prophylactic measures; and to Dr. Lindsay, of Edinburgh, for his experiments on the transmission of cholera by the clothes.—(Medical News and Library.)

BOOKS AND JOURNALS RECEIVED.

The Causes, Symptoms, Diagnosis, Pathology, and Treatment of Chronic Diseases. By John King, M. D. Pp. 1607, Price \$15.

This is one of the most valuable works ever published, a copy of which should be in the hands of every Physician and Medical Student in the country.

We congratulate both the author and the Electic Medical Profession, that this long promised and difficult work to produce, is now completed and ready for use. The next number of the Review will contain a full and careful examination

of the work.

Annual Report of the American Institute, of the City of New York.

Seventy-Ninth annual report of the Regents of the University of the State of New York.

Forty-eighth annual report of the Trustees of the New York State Library. Sixth annual publication of the Massachusetts Electic Medical Society.

Charter and By-Laws of the American Institute of the City of New York.

Address before the Polytechnic branch of the American Institute, by Prof.

Samuel D. Tillman.

The half-yearly abstract of the Medical Sciences, January. Henry C. Lea, Publisher, Philadelphia.

Buffalo Medical and Surgical Journal, April and May, 1867.

Eclectic Medical Journal of Cincinnati, April.

Boston Medical and Surgical Journal.

American Journal of the Medical Sciences, edited by Isaac Hays, M. D.

Herald of Health, April and May.

Dental Cosmos.

The Galveston Medical and Surgical Journal.

The Journal of Materia Medica, April and May.

The Dental Register, Cincinnati.

The Druggists' Circular and Chemical Gazette.

University Journal of Medicine and Surgery, Philadelphia.

The Hahnemannian Monthly.

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